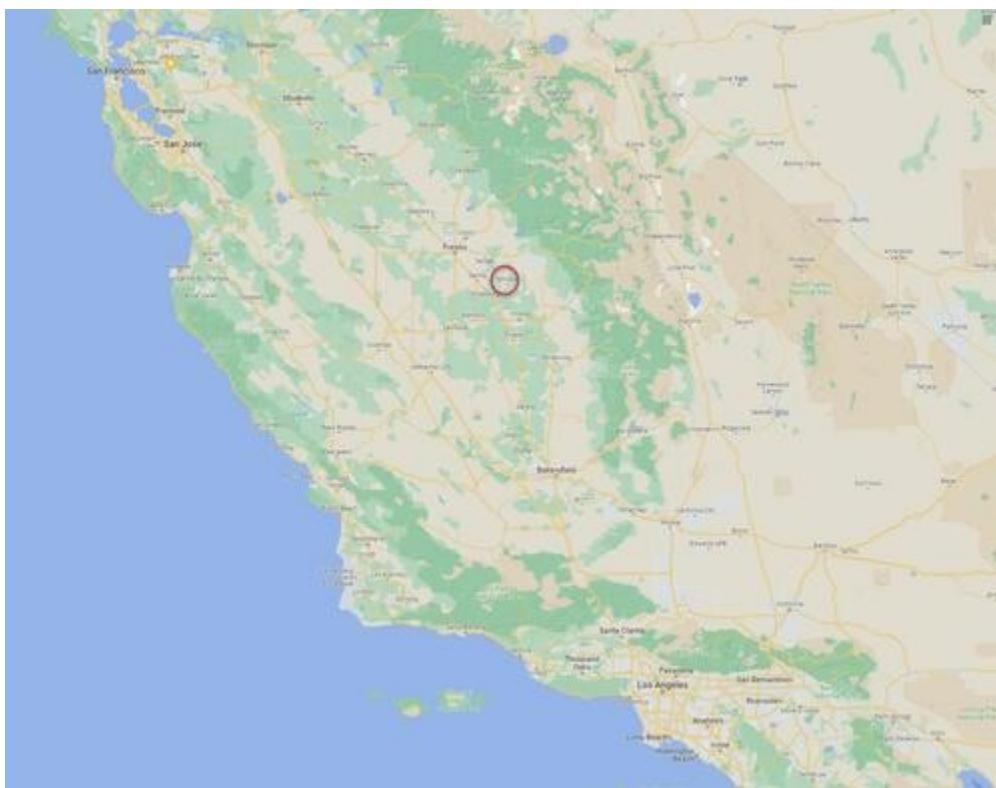


Archive: "I've Never Seen Anything Like This" - Mysterious Chinese Bio-Lab Discovered In Remote California City

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 07:11 AM

Why would a bio-lab run by a shady Chinese company be operating in Reedley, CA in the central San Joaquin Valley?



What was supposed to be an empty building used only for storage was home to a black-market type of lab testing facility.



YourCentralValley.com reports that **the discovery was made after a local code enforcement officer noticed this garden hose poking out a back wall of the building.**

Public Health staff also observed blood, tissue and other bodily fluid samples and serums; and **THOUSANDS of vials of unlabeled fluids and suspected biological material.**



[Image source: Kyle Bass](#)

[ZH: This image is reportedly NOT of the Chinese lab]

Additionally they found 900 genetically engineered mice, engineered to catch and carry COVID-19, living in “inhumane” conditions.

773 of the mice had to be euthanized, and officials found another 178 mice already dead.

“This is an unusual situation. I’ve been in government for 25 years. I’ve never seen anything like this,” said Reedley City Manager Nicole Zieba.

Even county health officials were left in shock.

“I’ve never seen this in my 26-year career with the County of Fresno,” said Assistant Director of the Fresno County Department of Public Health Joe Prado.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tested the substances and detected at least 20 potentially infectious agents, including coronavirus, HIV, hepatitis and herpes, according to a Health and Human Services letter dated June 6.

Agents also found thousands of package boxes - many with shipping labels from China. Below is a photo included in court documents in California.



[NBC News reports](#) that an investigation found the tenant was Prestige BioTech, a company registered in Nevada and unlicensed for business in California. **City officials spoke with Xiuquin Yao, who was identified as the company president, through emails included in the court documents.**

Yao told officials that Prestige BioTech moved assets belonging to a defunct company, Universal Meditech Inc., to the Reedley warehouse from Fresno after UMI went under. Prestige Biotech was a creditor to UMI and identified as its successor, according to court documents.

Officials were unable to get any California-based address for either company except for the previous Fresno location from which UMI had been evicted.

"The other addresses provided for identified authorized agents were either empty offices or addresses in China that could not be verified," court documents said.

As [Kyle Bass asks in a brief tweet-thread](#):

Is this illegal lab the tip of the iceberg? How many additional bioagent labs will be found?

THIS WAS A LUCKY FIND.

The lab was discovered by Reedley, CA city code enforcement officers when they saw a garden hose attached to the building and investigated.

This investigation into this illegal Chinese bio-agent lab must be handled at the highest levels of US law enforcement to determine a comprehensive plan to protect U.S. national security.

**[threadreaderappdotcom/thread/
1685250307154948098.html](https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1685250307154948098.html)**

Government, inflation, energy: Teamsters Notified That Trucking Giant Yellow Ceases Operations

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 08:08 AM

By Todd Maiden of [FreightWaves](#)

Less-than-truckload carrier Yellow Corp. ceased all operations at 12 p.m. Sunday, according to a notice on the gates at its terminals.

Archive, Africa, war (doesn't include twitter posts): Niger Suspends Uranium & Gold Exports Amid Rumors Of Imminent French Military Intervention

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 11:40 AM

Last week's coup in Niger is already fast becoming an internationalized conflict situation, as the West African nation's former colonial ruler **France has denounced and condemned the junta**—while urging that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum be immediately reinstated. Coup supporters are now **attacking diplomatic locations and French interests, including the French embassy in the capital of Niamey.**

Bazoum is reportedly in good health following the harrowing events days ago when he was taken captive by his own presidential guard. Interestingly, the very rationale of those who overthrew his democratically elected government (merely two years in) centers on geopolitical matters: growing jihadi violence has become a major issue and he's been severely criticized for failing to secure the nation and the safety of the population. But others say that's just a pretext for what was an internal power struggle and military machinations. Currently, there are [emerging reports](#) in Mideast-Africa regional [sources](#) that Niger (under the junta) has **suspended all exports of uranium and gold to France**. FT is [confirming](#):

*The junta has continued to step up anti-French rhetoric. **It announced it was suspending the export of uranium to France with immediate effect.** Niger is the world's seventh-largest producer of Uranium and France, which relies on nuclear energy for 75 per cent of its power, is a significant importer.*



Leaders of Niger junta, including General Abdourahmane Tiani, via Reuters.

There are already **widespread allegations of direct French military intervention being imminent**, after on Friday the head of the presidential guards unit Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani declared himself Niger's new ruler of the country.

France has asserted it will only recognize the only legitimate authority as Bazoum, whose precise whereabouts remain unknown —though he has just [met with the leader of Chad](#), who is reportedly trying to mediate.



Via Al Jazeera:

coup supporters have been widely flying Russian flags as an assertion against European colonialism and the West.

France and the now-ruling military have exchanged threats and warnings, amid claims that the now ousted government has been encouraging French strikes against the presidential palace and coup leaders.

Colonel Amadou Abdramanne, who is among the coup leaders and a spokesman, has **alleged that Niger's foreign minister had signed a legal order which authorizes external French military intervention** to restore political stability. There are even allegations of French forces preparing a missile attack on the presidential palace. France has neither confirmed nor denied that the exiled Bazoum government requested this, however.

Further, Abdramanne warned Monday that foreign governments **must not attempt to free Bazoum or intervene** on behalf of his officials, vowing that bloodshed and further chaos would follow.

Complicating matters, and adding to the geopolitical pressures and tensions, is the fact that Niger has long been **a major operating hub for French special forces, with some 1,500 French troops in the country**, who regularly conducted joint operations with the prior government.



Ousted Niger

president Mohamed Bazoum, BBG/file image

The 'anti-imperialist' nature of coup supporters in the streets has been demonstrated by their **waving Russian flags**. Alarmingly, while both French and American troops are in the region, the Russian mercenary group Wagner is just next door in Mali. Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who days ago popped back up in Russia for the first time since the June 23 mutiny events, in a rare message positively celebrated the coup and blasted past French and Western [colonialism in Africa](#):

*In a long message posted to social media, Prigozhin blamed the situation in Niger on the legacy of colonialism and alleged, without evidence, that **Western nations were sponsoring terrorist groups in the country**. Niger was once a French colony and, before this week's putsch, it had been one of the few democracies in the region.*

Meanwhile, Russian flag-bearing protesters have **attacked the French embassy in Niamey...**

All of this has prompted a fresh response from President Emmanuel Macron, who said his government "**will not tolerate any attack on France and its interests**" in Niger. He blasted the coup d'état as "perfectly illegitimate" (ironic given this implies he believes he can bestow some coups with legitimacy but not others).

Tensions are also building along the borders, after coup leaders claimed neighboring allies of the West are plotting against them. West African leaders held an emergency meeting on Sunday in Nigeria over the coup and crisis.



French

embassy being breached, via Reuters.

The 15-nation regional bloc Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) called for Bazoum's immediate restoration to office, saying it will "all measures" to restore democratic government and the constitution. The biggest warning from ECOWAS was seen in the following statement:

"Such measures may include the use of force for this effect," it said in [a statement](#).



Protesters laid

siege to the French embassy in Niger over the weekend, via AFP.

The White House in a weekend statement said it is "closely monitoring" the coup and events inside the country, while staying in communication with military leaders.

"We remain deeply concerned about the unfolding developments ... the United States condemns in the strongest terms, any effort to seize power by force," NSC spokesman John Kirby said. "A military takeover may cause the United States to cease security and other cooperation with the government of Niger, **jeopardizing existing security and non security partnerships.**"

But as *The Intercept* highlights, this is yet another problem and change of government that's at least in part of Washington's own making... that is, **another African coup leader who was trained by US special forces.** According to [The Intercept](#):

BRIG. GEN. MOUSSA SALAOU BARMOU, the chief of Niger's Special Operations Forces and one of the leaders of the unfolding coup in Niger, was trained by the U.S. military, The Intercept has confirmed. U.S.-trained military officers have taken part in 11 coups in West Africa since 2008.

"We have had a very long relationship with the United States," [Barmou said in 2021](#). "Being able to work together in this capacity is very good for Niger." Just last month, Barmou met with [Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga](#), the head of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, at Air Base 201, a drone base in the Nigerian city of Agadez that serves as the lynchpin of an archipelago of U.S. outposts in West Africa.

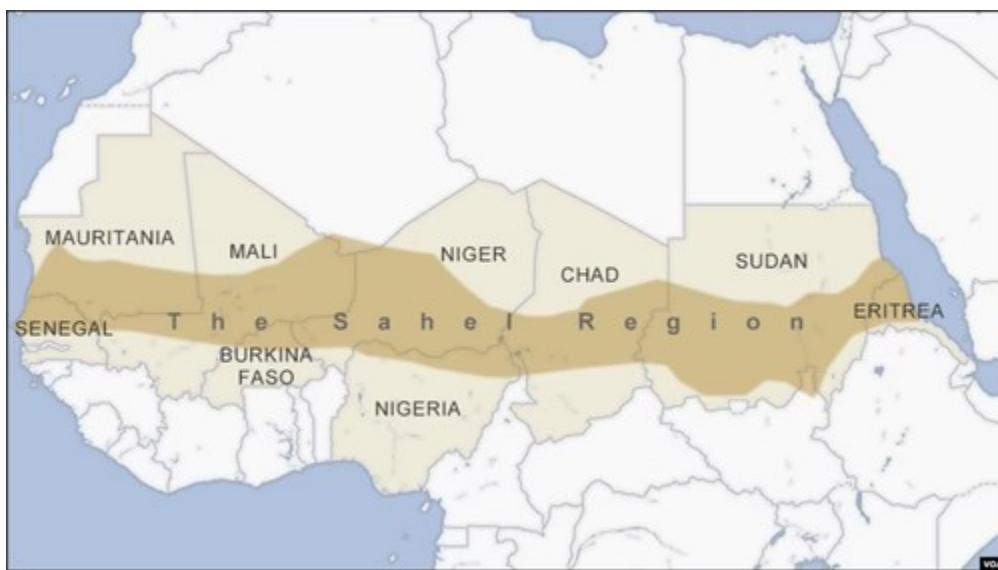
On Wednesday, Barmou, who trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the National Defense University in Washington, joined a junta that ousted Mohamed Bazoum, Niger's democratically elected president, according to Nigerien sources and a U.S. government official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

But again, France has significantly more at stake concerning the chaotic political situation of its formal colony, given Niger provides **15% of France's total uranium needs.**

Uranium stocks and nuclear power-related companies are sharply up, climbing on reports that the Niger junta has **suspended exports of uranium and gold to France with immediate effect** (as well as news that Southern Co.'s expanded Vogtle nuclear power plant in Georgia is delivering power to the grid after years of delays)...



It should be noted that **about one-fifth of the European Union's uranium stock derives from Niger.**



From the West's perspective, looming large in the background is expanding Russian influence in Africa. Already there are hyped headlines claiming Putin is now eyeing extending his influence to Niger and across West Africa.

Court, journal, crypto, markets (Shutdown every crypto currency)

other than bitcoin? But isn't it a 1.7 trillion dollar market!?)

Coinbase CEO Says SEC Told It To Delist Everything But Bitcoin: Report

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 12:10 PM

[Authored by Jesse Coghlan via CoinTelegraph.com.](#)

Crypto exchange Coinbase was once told by the United States securities regulator to delist all cryptocurrencies on its platform except for Bitcoin, according to CEO [Brian Armstrong](#)...

Journal (Russia using the n word again):

Medvedev Says Russia Could Use Nuclear Weapon If Ukraine Offensive Wins

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 01:40 PM

Senior Russian national security official Dmitry Medvedev has issued a dire nuclear warning and threat aimed at Ukraine and its Western backers (though certainly not for the first time).

He said in a Sunday Telegram post that Russia could be forced to **mount nuclear attack if Ukraine's counteroffensive succeeds**. In effect it is to say that if Ukraine "wins", nukes would be deployed. This would happen in the **scenario of "part of our land being taken away,"** he said.

"Just imagine that the offensive... **in tandem with NATO**, succeeded and ended up with part of our land being taken away. **Then we would have to use nuclear weapons by virtue of the stipulations of the Russian Presidential Decree,**" the former president and now deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council asserted, which is being widely cited in Western press [reports](#).

"There simply wouldn't be any other solution," he added. "**Our enemies should pray to our fighters that they do not allow the world to go up in nuclear flames.**"

It remains a little ambiguous over whether Medvedev was primarily referencing Russian territory proper within its national borders "being taken away", or if this was a reference to the four regions of eastern/southern Ukraine, as well as Crimea, which have been declared absorbed into the Russian Federation as of last year.

Putin and top Russian officials had previously asserted that Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia would now be **defended as de facto Russian territory under the law**. Medvedev appears to be reasserting that even if this territory comes under 'existential threat' of being taken by Kiev and NATO, the 'nuclear option' would be firmly 'on the table'.

Journal (refer to chart showing how badly Germany's economy suffered from the shutdowns compared to the rest of the western world. Its very bad. Crazy to see their leaders using such rhetoric. You

wonder where it's really coming from):

Germans Have "Moral Obligation" To Sacrifice Living-Standards & Wealth, Claims Green Party MP

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, AUG 01, 2023 - 03:00 AM

[Authored by John Cody via Remix News.](#)

Germans are facing an increasing range of economic problems, including recession, inflation, falling real wages, and even the beginnings of deindustrialization, but Green Party MP Green Party [Johannes](#)

[Wagner](#) is **claiming that Germans have a “moral duty” to give up their wealth.**

German Green Party MP Johannes Wagner says Germans should give up their wealth.

Wagner took to Twitter to express his outrage that Germans do not want to give away their wealth.

“It’s such a shame that so many people don’t see (or don’t want to?) what incredible prosperity we have in Germany. We are one of the richest countries on Earth. We can still give so much. And also have a moral obligation to do so,” he wrote.

The MP earns more than €10,000 a month in income per month, as well as additional benefits such as paid travel and other expenses, placing him among the highest earners in Germany. He will also receive a generous pension due to his high salary as a state employee.

In another tweet, Wagner called for “more redistribution of the wealth of the super-rich.”

However, he did not mention how this money would be redistributed.

Wagner was hit by a range of negative comments on social media. Besides increasing poverty and economic headwinds facing Germany, users pointed out that the median net wealth of young Germans is far below that of other EU countries, while the federal government has soaring debt totaling 2.5 trillion.

As Remix News [reported last year](#), the proportion of poor people in [Germany](#) reached a new high, according to the Federal Statistical Office, with the data highlighting a sea change in the German economy. The report also only covered data up until the end of 2021 before the dramatic increase in food and energy prices in 2022.

"The findings are shocking, the economic effects of the pandemic are having a full impact," said Ulrich Schneider, the director of the German Welfare Parity Association, at the time. His association plays a large role in helping deliver and coordinate social welfare services in the country, with 10,000 organization members and association branches in all 15 German states.

"Never before has a higher value been measured based on the official micro census, and never before has poverty spread so rapidly as during the [pandemic](#)," said Schneider, who added that there are "[more poor people than we've ever had.](#)"

As Remix News also reported this year, at the same time that Germany vows to continue spending heavily on its liberal migration policy — [more than €36 billion in 2023 alone](#) — an increasing number of the country's senior citizens are reported to be at a growing risk of poverty.

Federal government data published under a request from Alternative for Germany (AfD) lawmakers revealed that 28.1 percent of the German elderly are at risk of poverty, a figure that is higher than the EU average of 27.4 percent and far greater than its Western European neighbors of France (19.1 percent), Belgium (17.4 percent), and Luxembourg (9.3 percent).

Journal, stats: the china ghost city thing

Joe Biden and the Democrats have been **engaged in a coordinated propaganda campaign for the past few months**, claiming that Biden has pulled off a miracle by boosting the US economy and defeating inflation. Yet, around **60% of Americans in polls continue to say that Biden is doing a terrible job when it come to the economic situation**, and over 70% of Americans say they are **now financially stressed**, due in large part to inflation in the cost of living. Around 72% of Americans continue to believe that the country is on the wrong track.

Biden's strategy is reminiscent of the Chinese government's efforts to falsify economic growth – The CCP often uses unnecessary public works and infrastructure projects as a means to create jobs out of thin air. Not because they care about the well-being of the population, but because they care about how China is perceived by the rest of the world. There are thousands of empty buildings dotting the landscapes of ghost cities in China, paid for with public funds as a means to make the CCP look like they are creating a successful communist paradise.

Sometimes, the CCP dumps millions of dollars into these buildings and then simply **blows them up**.

Such projects artificially boost GDP, create millions of jobs on the taxpayer's dime (for a short time) and portray an image of a country on the path to 1st world success. But, it's all a facade. This is exactly what Biden is trying to do with the American economy – A false front using manipulated stats, not just to con the world, but to con the American people.

zerohedgedotcom/economics/biden-gaslights-americans-manufacturing-boom-us-production-plunges

vicedotcom/en/article/epn3bp/china-demolition-building-kunming

Narrative: "Too Big To Hide" - Ed Dowd Slams COVID Vax Injuries "Cover-Up... It's A Crime"



BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 08:00 PM

Via Greg Hunter's USAWatchdog.com,

Former Wall Street money manager Ed Dowd is still a skillful number cruncher. Dowd made billions of dollars in profits by being right on the data. He's right on the data again in his recent wildly popular book [**"Cause Unknown" The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 and 2022.**](#)



Dowd's book documents the extreme deaths and horrible injuries that are now skyrocketing in number. The huge problems being caused by the CV19 bioweapon/vax are increasing, unstoppable and no longer need to be proven. Dowd says,

"I was not in the room, but at this point, it is a crime because it's a coverup.

I said this in my book in December of 2022. They see the same data that I see, and the data has only gotten worse since then. So, it's a crime, and it's a coverup. That's all you need to know...

Forget about the who and the why. It was a bioweapon. It was a mistake. I don't care at this point. This is a joke. They are killing people.

They continue to mandate these jabs at some universities. Some employers still mandate them. The UK is requiring all school children who enter school in the fall to take these shots.

This is a joke. This is a crime. This is a coverup, and it's murder at this point."

In 2022 alone, Dowd figured 30% of the workforce had been killed, disabled and cannot work or is working chronically ill. **Dowd says the death and disability**

trend for 2023 is way up. Thousands everyday are reporting they are getting sick, and Dowd says the CV19 bioweapon injections are to blame. Supply chains and society are going to grind to a crawl, and Dowd predicts,

"Everything is slowly breaking down.

You won't see this on the news, but you will see this when you need something done, and you will experience this.

You are going to be gaslit and told everything is fine.

There is not problem here. Don't look over here.

We are going to see glacial Mad Max.

Things are going to get harder to do. Businesses and services you take for granted are going to become scarce.

I think we are going to see a deflation in financial assets that will start soon enough. We will have inflation in things you need like food, medical care and much other stuff."

Dowd also points out,

"The Justice Department is protecting the looting operation that's been going on for 40 plus years.

Everybody in Washington D.C. is literally stealing your taxpayer dollars...

The Deep State protects the looting operation, and they are all in on it."

Ivermectin is being used by doctors like [Pierre Kory](#) as a base drug for [treating CV19 vaxed injured patients](#) and unvaxed patients harmed by so-called "shedding." Yet, it is still being withheld from a public that desperately needs it. **Why is Ivermectin being restricted?** Dowd says,

"For them to start pushing Ivermectin would expose them. They are the ones who said what do you mean and called it horse paste. **Criminals and people in coverup mode continue as if everything is fine until they are caught.**

That's what happened at Enron. Enron was fraud, and the stock was down 50% from the highs... I was skeptical, and I protected my firm from it and got out of it...

This is the same thing. *Criminals are going to act as if everything is fine, and they are not going to ever admit that Ivermectin is worth anything to anybody because to do so would unravel their whole thread of lies. I take Ivermectin and I have never been vaccinated, and I take a little dose of Ivermectin a couple times a week."*

In closing, Dowd says,

"This is going to become too big to hide. Congress needs to act. These people in the GOP are forming committees on J6 and other things. That's great and good on you. How about the Covid vaccine committee? Call me up, I'll share my numbers."

Dowd also talks about the importance of holding cash, the dollar's near term and longer term future, gold as a core investment and the wild card of world war.

There is much more in the 49-minute interview.

Join Greg Hunter of USAWatchdog.com as he goes One-on-One with money manager and investment expert [Ed Dowd](#), author of the book called [**"Cause Unknown"**](#) **The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths in 2021 and 2022**

Stats, energy: "National Priority": USAF Buys Six Midnight eVTOL Aircraft For Rescue Operations

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 09:00 PM

The US Air Force entered into a contract with Archer Aviation Inc. to purchase six electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft in a deal worth up to \$142 million. The agreement is an expansion of Archer's partnership with the Pentagon and represents a move by the world's largest military to pursue new flight technology for the modern battlefield.

Archive, censorship: The Most Embarrassing "Facebook Files" Revelation? The Press, Exposed As Censors

BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 10:00 PM

[Authored by Matt Taibbi via Racket News,](#)



The most embarrassing revelation of the "[Facebook Files](#)" released by House Judiciary Chair Jim Jordan yesterday (described in more detail [here](#)) involves the news media:

Mark, Sheryl:

We are seeking your guidance on whether to take more aggressive action against certain vaccine discouraging content.

We are facing continued pressure from external stakeholders, including the White House and the press, to remove more COVID-19 vaccine discouraging content. For example, we recently shared with the White House a list of the [top 100 vaccine-related posts on FB in the U.S. for the week of 4/5-4/11](#). While authoritative information dominated the list, the White House was concerned that the #3 post was a [vaccine discouraging humorous meme](#), and they called on us to delete the meme.

In one damning email, an unnamed Facebook executive wrote to Mark Zuckerberg and Cheryl Sandberg:

We are facing continued pressure from external stakeholders, including the White House and the press, to remove more Covid-19 vaccine discouraging content.

We see repeatedly in internal communications not only in the email above, but in the Twitter Files, in the exhibits of the *Missouri v Biden* lawsuit, and even in the Freedom of Information request results beginning to trickle in here at *Racket*, that the news media has for some time been working in concert with civil society organizations, government, and tech platforms, as part of the censorship apparatus.

In the summer of 2021, the White House and Joe Biden were in the middle of a major factual faceplant. They were not only telling people the Covid-19 vaccine was a sure bet — “[You're not going to get Covid if you have these vaccinations](#)” is how Biden put it — but that those who questioned its efficacy were “killing people.” But the shot didn’t work as advertised. It didn’t prevent contraction or transmission, something Biden himself continued to be wrong about [as late as December of that year](#).

If you go back and give a careful read to corporate media content from that time describing the administration’s war against “disinformation,” you’ll see outlets were themselves not confident the vaccine worked. Take the *New York Times* effort from July 16th, 2021, “[They’re Killing People: Biden Denounces Social Media for Virus Disinformation](#).” You can see the *Times* tiptoeing around what they meant, when they used the word “disinformation.” In this and other [pieces](#) they used phrases like, “the spread of anti-vaccine misinformation,” “how to track misinformation,” “the prevalence of misinformation,” even “Biden’s forceful statement capped weeks of anger in the White House over the dissemination of vaccine disinformation,” but they repeatedly hesitated to say what the misinformation was.

Any editor will tell you this language is a giveaway. Journalists wrote expansively about “disinformation,” but rarely got into specifics. They knew that they couldn’t state with certainty that the vaccine worked, that there weren’t side effects, etc., yet still denounced people who asked those questions. This is because they agreed with the concept of “malinformation,” i.e. there are things that may be true factually, but which may produce political results considered adverse. “Hesitancy” was one such bugbear. Note the language from the unnamed Facebook executive above, which describes the press lashing out “Covid-19 vaccine discouraging content,” not “disinformation.”

This is total corruption of the news. **We're supposed to be in the business of questioning officials, even if the questions are unpopular. That's our entire role!** If we don't do that, we serve no purpose, maybe even a negative purpose. Moreover, think of the implications. News outlets wail about "disinformation" when they're aware the public has tuned them out. When people don't listen to reporters, it's usually because they suck. You can do the math, as to why the current crop embraces censorship. A more embarrassing outcome for our business would be hard to imagine.

Narrative, censorship, journal
(another Christian fanatic heading the antivax movement. How convenient. Associating the idea of the right to freedom of assembly with Catholic street preachers ranting on the sidewalk seems like the perfect way to stifle any future dissent from the public when the government starts, who knows, maybe blocking peoples messages online; potentially watching and listening to everything they say

and do via the smartphone they carry everywhere they go; and, of course, last but not least, forcing them to take novel, virtually untested vaccines in the middle of a crisis: Oh wait, aren't they doing that anyways!)

Canadian Pastor Convicted Of Inciting Mischief In Trucker Protests Facing Up To 10 Years Prison

BY TYLER DURDEN
MONDAY, JUL 31, 2023 - 11:20 PM

[Authored by Allan Stein via The Epoch Times](#) (emphasis ours),

Pastor Artur Pawlowski's troubles with the Canadian authorities began long before his sermon to commercial truckers encouraging their peaceful defiance against what he thought were "oppressive" public health mandates for COVID-19.

In 2005, he began serving and ministering to downtown Calgary—Alberta's poor and downtrodden. "In other words, feeding the homeless and praying for them, which is now illegal," he described to The Epoch Times in a telephone interview while under house arrest in Calgary following his court conviction in May for inciting mischief and violating his release conditions.

The police eventually showed up at Mr. Pawlowski's church, telling him he couldn't feed the homeless by law. Neither was he allowed to assemble or preach in public.

Such actions are also illegal and punishable with tickets, fines, and even jail time.



Artur

Pawlowski's Street Church service provides food for the poor at Olympic Plaza in Calgary, Alberta, on March 2021. (Courtesy of Artur Pawlowski)

"They even have laws on the books that distributing printed materials—Bibles and Gospel tracts—is illegal. So I got tickets for that," Mr. Pawlowski said.

He added that tensions with the authorities had reached the point where police showed up at his church weekly.

During the pandemic, he received 40 tickets for COVID-19 violations, including one for a Christmas celebration he said drew a response from over 100 police officers, 52 police vehicles, as well as anti-terrorism units.

Over 300 Citations

Between 2005 and 2015, Mr. Pawlowski said he received over 300 citations for refusing to stop preaching, feeding the homeless, and doing what he thought was helpful to those in need.

He was arrested and charged in 2006 for reading the Bible in public, and considers being the first Canadian to receive a COVID-19 ticket for feeding the homeless a badge of honor in what he'd say was righteous defiance.

"I asked them a simple question: 'What do you think will happen to the homeless if we kick them out of shelters and shut down soup kitchens?'" he said of his efforts.



European Union

flags are displayed at the European Council headquarters in Brussels on Nov. 29, 2019. (KENZO TRIBOUILLARD/AFP via Getty Images)

Mr. Pawlowski, pastor of the Cave of Adullam ministry and founder of Street Church Ministries in Calgary, said he has also been granted some victories in the eyes of the law. He won significant court battles through Alberta's provincial courts of appeal.

On Aug. 9, Mr. Pawlowski, a native of Poland and an acolyte of the "Solidarity Movement," could receive up to 10 years in prison for the charge of "inciting mischief" during Canada's nationwide trucker protests last year.

The protests rose in response to the public health rules of Canada's Trudeau administration, sparking a massive "Freedom Convoy" from like-minded residents that threatened to bring the nation's economy to a halt unless COVID-19 restrictions that were also impacting the economy and mental health were lifted.

Response to Government Overreach

As a Christian minister, Mr. Pawlowski said he believed he was waging a spiritual battle against "government overreach" during the pandemic, even if it means he has to pay fines, get arrested, or go to jail.

On Feb. 7, 2022, at the border crossing blockade in Coutts, Alberta, Mr. Pawlowski told a crowd of commercial truckers, "It's about time for Canadians to rise up and start roaring."

"For the first time in two years, you've got the power. They've got the guns, yes —it's all useless when you all rise up. **There is no tyrant big enough that can stop [the] masses.**"

Canadian authorities arrested and charged him with inciting mischief and interfering with essential infrastructure under Alberta's Critical Infrastructure Defense Act of 2020.

The Critical Infrastructure Defense Act "protects essential infrastructure from damage or interference caused by blockades or similar activities, which can cause significant public safety, social, economic and environmental consequences."



Artur Pawlowski

with his wife, Marzena, in July 1998. (Courtesy of Artur Pawlowski)

Mr. Pawlowski said Canadian authorities also accused him of promoting "genocide" for referencing the Solidarity Movement contributing to the fall of communism in Poland.

"Of course, if you listened to my service, you will know that I said no guns, no swords, just stand for God and human rights during my sermon three times," he said of the accusation.

Mr. Pawlowski said he spent 50 days in prison, mostly in solitary confinement surrounded by concrete cells, before he was placed in maximum security and a psychiatric ward without evaluation.

The court found him guilty of inciting mischief in May. Judge Gordon Krinke placed him under 12-hour daily house arrest until his sentencing date.



Tony Hall, the

founder of We the People YQL takes part in a protest on March 15, 2022 in front of the Lethbridge courthouse where four men charged with conspiracy to commit murder at the Coutts blockade were appearing in court. (The Canadian Press/Bill Graveland)

"So, encouraging Canadians to stand for God and state human rights is a criminal act, a terrorism act," said Mr. Pawlowski, who needs special permission to leave his house between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. "Therefore I am guilty, and all of them are guilty, according to this judge."

Months later, he is "still under house arrest in Calgary," he said.

Belief on Trial

"I am the first Canadian where my sermon and speech were on trial. Everything was about what I said. The lawyers argued what I meant. It was a charade, a show trial—a joke," Mr. Pawlowski said.

"I was not allowed to say a word as they debated what I said and what I meant. They couldn't agree on the wording."

Mr. Pawlowski said he is also the first Canadian citizen charged with eco-terrorism in the history of Canada.

"And now, the judge ruled I am the first Canadian ever to be found guilty of inciting mischief and eco-terrorism," Mr. Pawlowski said. "The Canadian courts are upside down. I am a political prisoner. It has nothing to do with law and order," he expressed.

An Alberta Crown Prosecution Service spokesman told The Epoch Times in an email that the agency has "no comment on this matter."

Sarah Miller of JSS Barristers is currently representing Mr. Pawlowski in the case. She said she "currently cannot speak to media regarding this case while the sentencing is outstanding."

However, Ms. Miller said she does not expect sentencing to occur on Aug. 9. Rather, the proceedings will "set the date for sentencing."

"I hope to be able to speak publicly about this case in the future," Ms. Miller added.

Son Expresses Cry for Help

The pastor's son, Nathan Pawlowski, recently testified in the European Parliament about the "consequences of abuse of power under the guise of help" during the pandemic by the Canadian government.

"I am here today in desperation—a cry for help," Nathan Pawlowski said by videolink from Canada. "I would like to tell you all the things about freedom and democracy that I like, but I no longer know those things."

"They have been taken away from us Canadians. Canada has fallen. We no longer have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, or the right to assemble, associate, or express ourselves, or have free media or disagree with the government."

Nathan Pawlowski said his father could be imprisoned for up to a decade for his trucker sermon and referenced the Solidarity Movement.

"This case sets a precedent with all Canadians—and the world—if you allow this to happen," he said.

He explained that his father was charged with preaching and reading the Bible publicly because the government had ruled that the Bible is "hateful and isn't inclusive."

"My father told the truckers to stand for their rights, Solidarity-style, and to do so peacefully."

"If he goes down, we are all lost as Canadians. If a pastor goes to prison, what can they do to the rest of us?" the younger Pawlowski said.

'Seen This Movie Before'

In a video recording played by his son, Mr. Pawlowski also addressed the European Parliament—as a political dissident "born behind the Iron Curtain of Poland, crushed by the iron fist of oppression" in Canada.

"Freedom is more than a word—it's a measure of our humanity, courage, and determination. It's a cost borne by soldiers, journalists, and volunteers," he said.

Mr. Pawlowski told The Epoch Times he had received offers of money and government positions in exchange for his silence, but he's "not for sale."

**"I have seen this movie before" under communism in Poland, he said.
"It does not end well."**

Energy, planet, narrative, war: Energy Industry Fears White House Will Declare COVID-Like 'Climate Emergency'

BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, AUG 01, 2023 - 12:00 AM

[Authored by Jack Phillips via The Epoch Times \(emphasis ours\),](#)

"They can literally do exactly what they did in COVID," Mr. Stewart [said](#). "If you disagree with the climate emergency, [speech] can be shut down. We really need to be paying attention to that because that power could be extended indefinitely until the 'climate emergency' is over. Who knows how long that would last."

About 60 congressional Democrats recently backed legislation known as the "Climate Emergency Act of 2021," sponsored by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), that would [require](#) the Biden administration to make a climate-related emergency declaration.

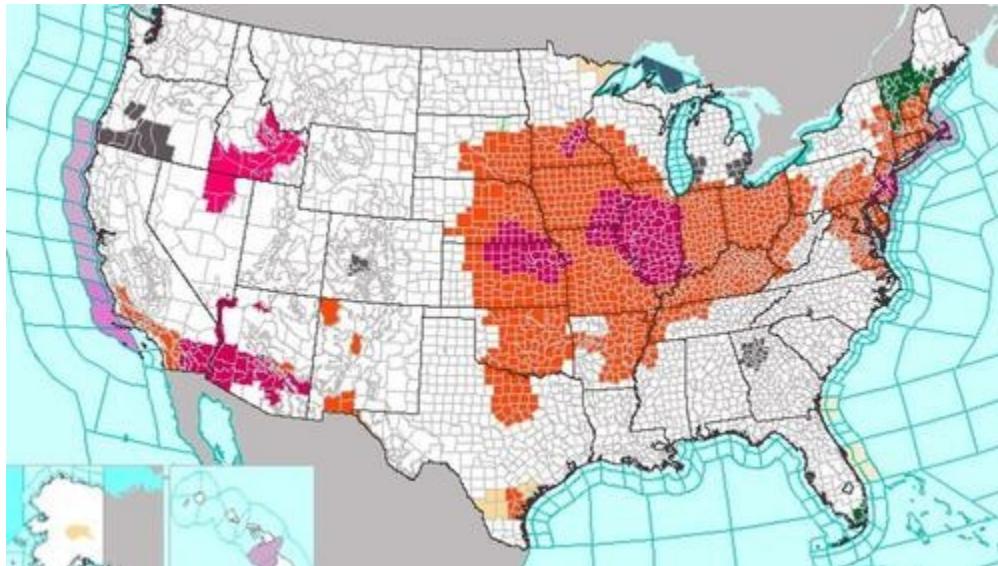
Last week, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres [released](#) an alarmist message saying that "the era of global warming has ended" and "the era of global boiling has arrived." Using adjectives that included "terrifying," Mr. Guterres said U.N. member states "must turn a year of burning heat into a year of burning ambition."

A number of legacy media outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, have [floated](#) proposals such as purposefully implementing an "occasional blackout" to "help solve climate change." A Guardian article published last week [calls](#) on the Biden administration to "declare a climate emergency" and states that it "must do so now."

Mr. Stewart recently [said](#) the LA Times article and similar reports are part of a "propaganda war" that's designed to "condition the public to think people it is their duty to the State to be miserable, cold, and hungry."

"It wasn't too long ago that even posing a question like this would be considered preposterous even from Democrats," he said. "After all—one of the defining problems of Third World countries is the lack of reliable energy infrastructure and supply."

Amid relatively high temperatures across the East Coast last week, the White House sent out what it described as the "first-ever" heat wave hazard alert for people working outside.



*The National Weather Service's forecast map for July 27, 2023.
(Weather.gov)*

"President Biden has asked the Department of Labor (DOL) to issue the first-ever Hazard Alert for heat, and DOL will also ramp up enforcement to protect workers from extreme heat," a White House fact sheet released on July 27 states. "For years, heat has been the number one cause of weather-related deaths in America."

At the time, Mr. Biden's announcement came as about 40 percent of the U.S. population was under heat advisories, according to the National Weather Service. As of July 30, the hot weather was mostly relegated to the southeastern United States, the agency [stated](#).

War, Europe: Russia Offers To Negotiate Pulling Nukes From Belarus - Names Key Condition



BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, AUG 01, 2023 - 03:45 AM

Moscow has offered to **negotiate a nuclear drawdown on the European continent with the United States**, with a Kremlin official identifying the conditions for Russia withdrawing its tactical nuclear weapons from Belarus.

.....

Putin had by mid-June confirmed that the first Russian nuclear warheads had already positioned in Belarus, and this was later validated by his counterpart, President Viktor Lukashenko. Western mainstream media headlines and pundits had hyperventilated over the nuclear transfer.

Later, after the Wagner mutiny saw a number of units of the mercenary group set up at Belarusian bases, concern rose among NATO countries especially in eastern Europe over whether Wagner would play a role in securing and overseeing the Russian tactical nuclear weapons.

Where U.S. Nuclear Bombs Are Stored in Europe

Bases in Europe where U.S.-owned B61 nuclear gravity bombs are stored



Source: Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation



statista

You will find more infographics at [Statista](#)

The Kremlin has long highlighted Washington's nuclear hypocrisy as part of providing Europe with the so-called NATO nuclear umbrella. This even has including positioning tactical nuclear weapons in Turkey, which lies just across the Black Sea from Russia.

Archive, narrative, journal: Scientists Call For Nature Medicine To Retract 'Proximal Origins' Lab-Leak Denial: Thacker



BY TYLER DURDEN

THURSDAY, JUL 27, 2023 - 10:40 PM

[Authored by Paul D. Thacker via The Disinformation Chronicle,](#)



Internal communications finding that virologists did not believe the conclusions they published in a prestigious journal has triggered scientists to [circulate a petition](#) calling for Nature Medicine to retract the influential “Proximal Origins” paper that denied the possibility of a lab accident in Wuhan, China, and misled the public during the pandemic’s first crucial years. Within days, the petition [garnered over 1,300 signatures](#) and set the hashtag [#RetractProximalOrigins](#) trending on Twitter.

The torrent of virologists' internal communications became public following [a House hearing earlier this month](#), during which Scripps Research's Kristian Andersen [submitted false testimony](#) about the Nature Medicine paper. Last week, The Intercept [published newly revealed documents](#) finding that Andersen and his co-author, Robert "Bob" Garry of Tulane University, both lied to

Congress during the House hearing about whether they had pending federal grants controlled by Anthony Fauci that could have been used as to influence them.

The NIH is clear about its process. “Council recommends an application for funding. NIAID makes the final decision,” [the agency explains](#). “The main NIAID advisory Council must recommend an application for funding before we can award a grant, although the Institute makes the final funding decision,” [the agency goes on](#).

The grant wasn’t finalized until May 21, 2020. In other words, it was on Fauci’s desk at the time of the conference call. [Andersen’s lab announced the funding](#) in a press release in August 2020, nine months after he claimed it was already finalized. The press release describes it as a “new \$8.9 million grant.”

Many of the virologists’ internal emails and Slack messages began leaking onto Twitter, followed by a joint [Public and Racket investigation](#). The messages showed scientists were deeply concerned that the COVID virus could have been engineered or leaked from a Wuhan lab, even as they publicly ridiculed such thinking as a “conspiracy theory.”

In one example, Andersen wrote his colleagues on February 1, 2020, in a private Slack message, “I think the main thing still in my mind is that the lab escape version of this is so friggin’ likely to have happened because they were already doing this type of work and the molecular data is fully consistent with that scenario.”

Kristian Andersen 01:51
I think the main thing still in my mind is that the lab escape version of this is so friggin' likely to have happened because they were already doing this type of work and the molecular data is fully consistent with that scenario.

That following day, Andersen added another private message to virologists, “The main issue is that accidental lab escape is in fact highly likely – it’s not some fringe theory.”

Kristian Andersen 01:51
Yeah, no worries Andrew - I think your reply was great. Both Ron and Christian are much too conflicted to think about this issue straight - to them, the hypothesis of accidental lab escape is so unlikely and not something they want to consider. The main issue is that accidental escape is in fact highly likely - it's not some fringe theory. I absolutely agree that we can't prove one way or the other, but we never will be able to - however, that doesn't mean that by default the data is currently much more suggestive of a natural origin as opposed to e.g. passage. It is not - the furin cleavage site is very hard to explain.

“Someone needs to lay out the science of all this before it gets out of hand (and creates more formal investigations),” emailed Andersen’s Nature Medicine co-author a week later.

From: Andrew Rambaut [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Jeremy Farrar
Cc: Eddie Holmes; Christian Drosten; kga1978 [REDACTED]; rfgarry [REDACTED]; r.fouchier [REDACTED]; p.vallance1 [REDACTED]; collinsf [REDACTED]; afauci [REDACTED]; Josie Golding; m.koopmans [REDACTED]; Mike Ferguson
Subject: Re: [ext] 2019 N-CoV

I agree with Eddie, I think someone needs to lay out the science of this before it gets out of hand (and causes more formal investigations).

After Andersen and colleagues published the Nature Medicine piece denying the possibility of a lab accident, Andersen tweeted that the paper failed to sway conspiracy theorists, likening people who questioned a Wuhan lab accident to those who denied the moon landing.

 **Kristian G. Andersen**  @K_G_Andersen · 19. März
Antwort an @dmaccannell @pathogenomenick und @sanghyuk_shin
I can confirmed that our paper has convinced 100% of conspiracy theorists
that they are wrong and can move back to other things - like the moon
landing. Or chemtrails.

It's a relief.

4 2 19

On Friday, The Telegraph published an article on the virologists' communications, noting that one of the Nature Medicine authors feared the "shit show" that would result if they accused China of starting the pandemic. Nature Medicine told the paper that the journal would not retract the piece, which was intended to present a "point of view" on the issue rather than being a research study.

Subscribers to The Disinformation Chronicle can read the rest [here...](#)

Stats, narrative, government, censorship: "**more often than not, when forced labor produces the food Americans eat, it likely happens within the U.S. instead of at foreign locations that import food**".

62% Of Food Derived From Forced Labor Is "Likely Produced In The U.S."

"The [study](#) was published Monday in the journal *Nature*, and it found that forced labor - once thought to be an issue only *outside* of the United States - is actually taking place within the country's borders."

zerohedgedotcom/markets/62-food-derived-forced-labor-likely-produced-us

Labor Organization's definition of forced work: "situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as accumulated debt, retention of identity papers, or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/willskipworth/2023/07/24/forced-labor-may-be-common-in-the-us-food-chain-new-study-says/>

Journal: crazy hockey stick chart shows car thefts exploding in baltimore, port loading with vehicles destined for West Africa

[justin_fenton/status/1674112771217149952](https://twitter.com/justin_fenton/status/1674112771217149952)

Journal: reread below until tag

"Last year, the number of violent events in Burkina Faso, Mali, and western Niger alone reached 2,737, according to a report by the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, a Defense Department research institution. **This represents a jump of more than 30,000 percent since the US began its counterterrorism efforts**," Turse wrote.

Turse noted **at least 10 coups launched in West Africa since 2008 were led by US-trained soldiers**, including in Burkina Faso, Mali, Gambia, Guinea, and Mauritania. He said it wasn't immediately clear if the soldiers who took power in Niger have received US training.

Censorship: "We Shouldn't Have Done It": Facebook Exec Admitted They Censored For Biden Regime



BY TYLER DURDEN
FRIDAY, JUL 28, 2023 - 03:40 PM

Update (1440ET): A leaked Facebook email from 2021 written by Nick Clegg, the company's president of Global Affairs, to colleagues, reads: "We were under pressure from the administration and others to do more," adding "**We shouldn't have done it.**"

As Matt Taibbi of *Racket News* writes:

In yesterday's Facebook Files release, it came out that Facebook, in its desperation to cool down these White House apes, promised to reduce traffic to Carlson's video by 50% while it was "in the queue to be fact-checked"!

Thanks Nick—here are some talking points that you can use if Andy raises Rob's questions:

How was this [Tucker Carlson] post not violative?

- while we remove content that explicitly directs people not to get the vaccine, as well as content that contains explicit misrepresentations about vaccines, we reviewed this content in detail and it does not violate those policies.

Moreover: you say reduced and demoted. What does that mean? There's 40,000 shares on the video. Who is seeing it now? How many? How effective is that?

- The video is receiving 50% demotion for seven days as it is in the queue to be fact checked

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META-118HJC-0053333

Apart from the obvious, why was this insane? Because while the White House fumed and outlets like the *Washington Post* excoriated Carlson for a "[just asking questions... shtick](#)," it turned out he was asking the right questions.

Why, if the vaccine worked, was Anthony Fauci telling people they shouldn't "attend medium to large gatherings" or remove masks? "If vaccines work," Carlson asked, "why are vaccinated people still banned from living normal lives?" Similarly: why was Justin Trudeau saying, "Vaccination on its own isn't enough to keep us safe," if the shot worked? Maybe, Carlson speculated, the vaccine doesn't work?

These were obvious and appropriate questions, but officials and journalists alike killed Carlson for them anyway. YouTube is still packed with TUCKER DISINFO DERP videos that are, themselves, actually wrong:

Subscribers to *Racket News* can read the rest [here...](#)

* * *

Representative Jim Jordan [came out with a series of released and unredacted emails](#) provided to a Congressional committee from Facebook (full Facebook Files below), **showing the massive pressure the White House and other entities put on the social media giant during the pandemic.**



The purpose was to quash narratives and even memes that the White House took umbrage with.

This has become all too familiar.

[As Summit News' Steve Watson reports](#), Rep. Jordan spoke out on Fox News after releasing the documents were released proving that the Biden administration pressured Meta to aggressively censor Americans expressing opinions they disagreed with on Facebook and Instagram.

“They knew it was wrong,” Jordan told Fox News host Laura Ingraham, adding:

“One of those Facebook executives said ‘This is a significant incursion into the boundaries of free expression.’ That is a fancy way of saying this violates the First Amendment for goodness sake.”

The executive Jordan was referring to is Nick Clegg, Facebook's president for global affairs.

“The White House was outraged, because Jen Psaki stood there at the podium what you played, in the White House and demanded this happen because the White House was demanding it and they wanted to keep their cozy relationship with the Biden Administration, they censored First Amendment speech,” Jordan continued.

The Congressman also referred to a Federal Judge issuing a recent injunction to put a stop to the Biden Administration acting like an “Orwellian Ministry Of

Truth" by colluding with big tech to censor opinions it doesn't like, much to the disliking of the establishment media.

"We had that great federal court decision on July 4th in the Western District of Louisiana, great decision," Jordan said, adding

"So, I don't think it's going on now. But we got make sure it doesn't go on in the future, it doesn't happen because we have this amazing thing in greatest country ever called the First Amendment."

Jordan continued, "Rand Paul and I have introduced legislation... which would say if you are in the government and doing what was happening there, you get fired, you don't get your pension benefits, there could be civil liability that you are subject to, you lose any security clearance you may have."

"We want real penalties for people in the government engaging what Professor [Jonathan] Turley called this censorship by surrogate," Jordan added.

Watch the full interview below:

* * *

THE FACEBOOK FILES, PART 1: SMOKING-GUN DOCS PROVE FACEBOOK CENSORED AMERICANS BECAUSE OF BIDEN WHITE HOUSE PRESSURE

Never-before-released internal documents subpoenaed by the Judiciary Committee PROVE that Facebook and Instagram censored posts and changed their content moderation policies because of unconstitutional pressure from the Biden White House.

During the first half of 2021, social media companies like Facebook faced tremendous pressure from the Biden White House—both publicly and privately—to crack down on alleged “misinformation.”

In April 2021, a Facebook employee circulated an email for Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and COO Sheryl Sandberg, writing: “We are facing continued pressure from external stakeholders, including the [Biden] White House” to remove posts.

Mark, Sheryl:

We are seeking your guidance on whether to take more aggressive action against certain vaccine discouraging content.

We are facing continued pressure from external stakeholders, including the White House and the press, to remove more COVID-19 vaccine discouraging content. For example, we recently shared with the White House a list of the top 100 vaccine-related posts on FB in the U.S. for the week of 4/5-4/11. While authoritative information dominated the list, the White House was concerned that the #3 post was a vaccine discouraging humorous meme, and they called on us to delete the meme.

In another April 2021 email, Nick Clegg, Facebook's president for global affairs, informed his team at Facebook that Andy Slavitt, a Senior Advisor to President Biden, was "outraged . . . that [Facebook] did not remove" a particular post.

Just got off hour long call with Andy Slavitt. There are some pretty serious – and sensitive (see last point) - issues we need to address. A summary:

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- He was appreciative of the data we sent thru on Friday, and confirmed that Rob F had said that they had never received so much data from us before.

BUT:

- Andy attended a meeting of misinfo researchers (didn't provide names) organized by Rob F on Friday in which the consensus was that FB is a "disinformation factory", and that YT has made significant advances to remove content leading to vaccine hesitancy whilst we have lagged behind.
- Whilst appreciative of our emphasis on authoritative vaccine, the principal focus for Andy S and his team in the coming weeks is to reach the "hardest to reach" people who have a propensity to consume vaccine hesitant related content and who are not swayed by official/authoritative sources of content. Our systems, he believes – as confirmed by the researchers – feed vaccine hesitant related content to pockets of the population and that's the problem he wants our help to resolve.
- As an eg, he was outraged – not too strong a word to describe his reaction – that we did not remove this post which was third most highly ranked post in the data set we sent to him:

What did the Biden White House want removed? A meme. That's right, even memes weren't spared from the Biden White House's censorship efforts.

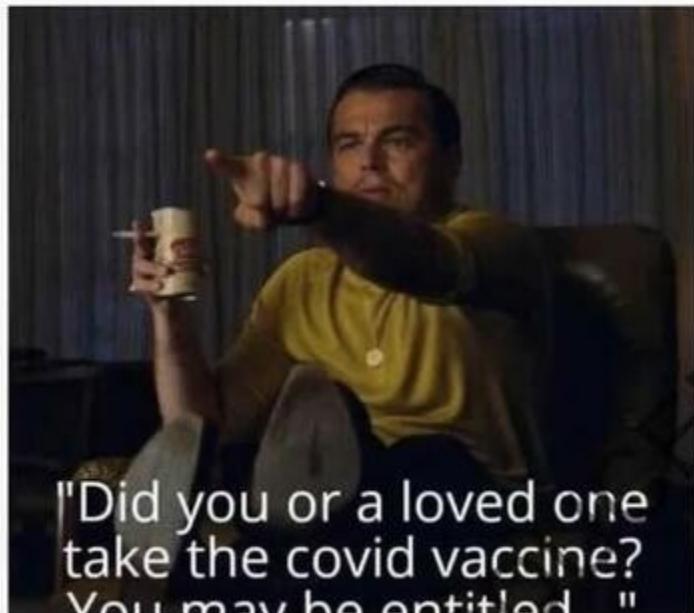


Timothy McComas

April 4, 2021 ·

UH OH !!!!

10 years from now you will
be watching TV and hear....



19K

2 comments 385K shares

Share

When Clegg “countered that removing content like that would represent a significant incursion into traditional boundaries of free expression in the US,” Slavitt disregarded the warning and the First Amendment.

<https://www.facebook.com/td.mccomas/posts/4106421952731017> I countered that removing content like that would represent a significant incursion into traditional boundaries of free expression in the US but he replied that the post was directly comparing Covid vaccines to asbestos poisoning in a way which demonstrably inhibits confidence in Covid vaccines amongst those the Biden Administration is trying to reach. [It would be very helpful if someone could also check whether this content was also available on YT – Andy’s assumption is that YT would never accept something like this]

What happened next? Facebook panicked. In another April 2021 email, Brian Rice, Facebook’s VP of public policy, raised the concern that Slavitt’s challenge felt “very much like a crossroads for us with the [Biden] White House in these early days.”

All of that said—Andy’s challenge feels very much like a crossroads for us with the White House in these early days.]

But Facebook wanted to repair its relationship with the White House to avoid adverse action: “Given what is at stake here, it would also be a good idea if we could regroup and take stock of where we are in our relations with the [White House], and our internal methods too.”

Given what is at stake here, it would also be a good idea if we could regroup to take stock of where we are in our relations with the WH, and our internal methods too.

Thx

N

This wasn’t the first time that the Biden White House was angry that Facebook didn’t censor more. According to these documents, the Biden White House demanded to know why Facebook had not censored a video from [@TuckerCarlson](#)

So, Facebook prepped its response.

To appease the Biden White House, talking points were drafted for Clegg. Facebook was ready to tell the White House that it had demoted a video posted by Tucker Carlson by 50 percent in response to the White House’s demands, even though the post didn’t violate any policies.

Thanks Nick—here are some talking points that you can use if Andy raises Rob’s questions:

How was this [Tucker Carlson] post not violative?

- while we remove content that explicitly directs people not to get the vaccine, as well as content that contains explicit misrepresentations about vaccines, we reviewed this content in detail and it does not violate those policies.

Moreover: you say reduced and demoted. What does that mean? There’s 40,000 shares on the video. Who is seeing it now? How many? How effective is that?

- The video is receiving 50% demotion for seven days as it is in the queue to be fact checked

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Public pressure mounted as well. In July 2021, President Biden publicly denounced Facebook and other social media platforms, claiming they were “killing people” by not censoring alleged “misinformation.”

On August 2, 2021, Facebook admitted it was going to change its policies because of pressure from the Biden White House.

August 2, 2021: “[Facebook’s] Leadership asked Misinfo Policy . . . to brainstorm some additional policy levers we can pull to be more aggressive against . . . misinformation. This is stemming from the continued criticism of our approach from the [Biden] administration.”

Context: Leadership asked Misinfo Policy and a couple of teams on Product Policy to brainstorm some additional policy levers we can pull to be more aggressive against Covid and vaccine misinformation. This is stemming from the continued criticism of our approach from the US administration and a desire to kick the tires further internally on creative options. (We know there's also a parallel effort to brainstorm Product/BTG levers we can pull.)

We've been sprinting over the past several days and have both dusted off some ideas we'd previously discussed with our Product counterparts (ie you), and come up with some net new ideas.

But it wasn't just the White House. Facebook also changed its policies in direct response to pressure from Biden's Surgeon General, censoring members of the "disinformation dozen."

3. **Option 3: Demote COVID or vaccine misinformation rated Partly False more strongly.**
 - a. **Impact:** We currently demote content rated Partly False at 50%. We will increase that demotion level to 80% for COVID and vaccine misinfo. Note: In the last month, fact-checkers applied "Partly False" ratings to at least 1k COVID-19/vaccine content.
 - b. **Status:** We are targeting the end of next week for launch. This includes transparency updates in an existing NewsRoom Post ([link](#)).
4. **Option 4: Count COVID or vaccine-related URLs that are rated Partly False or Missing Context towards "domain" Repeat Offender (RO) status (i.e., penalize the URL domains from which the content was shared).**
 - a. **Impact:** The Disinfo Dozen report faulted FB for allowing users to share URLs linked to the Disinfo Dozen. Misinfo Policy found that, for the most viral Disinfo Dozen URLs rated by third-party fact checkers, 85% of those ratings were either Partly False or Missing Context. However, only False ratings count towards misinfo repeat offender status, which means, for those URLs rated False, all user shares of that URL's domain will be demoted.
 - b. **Status:**
 - i. **Change:** This is a heavy lift to integrate into our existing repeat offender system. Instead, we will approach this as an on-escalation break-the-glass measure. We will periodically manually review domains that had a high number of third-party fact check ratings to see if enough of them were COVID or vaccine related. We will enforce on domains that meet that threshold manually for 90-day domain demotion (note: threshold is still TBD). Misinfo Policy and Product are aligned on this modification of the option as a BTG solution.
 - ii. **Caveats:** This will not flow through the normal repeat offender process, so will not have messaging that domain repeat offender status has been met. However many of our domain repeat offender demotions do not give notification unless the domain is explicitly tied to a page. We will need to have a reactive comms plan for partners that may experience these demotions.

These documents, AND OTHERS that were just produced to the Committee, prove that the Biden administration abused its powers to coerce Facebook into censoring Americans, preventing free and open discourse on issues of critical public importance.

Only after the Committee announced its intention to hold Mark Zuckerberg in contempt did Facebook produce ANY internal documents to the Committee, including these documents, which PROVE that government pressure was directly responsible for censorship on Facebook.

Based on Facebook's newfound commitment to fully cooperate with the Committee's investigation, the Committee has decided to hold contempt in abeyance. For now. To be clear, contempt is still on the table and WILL be used if Facebook fails to cooperate in FULL.

Journal, court: Police driving around Kansas targeting people without investigation or warrant. So basically, if you get pulled over for a trivial traffic stop, they can attempt to put you into questioning for something completely unrelated. Everybody can now be turned into a potential suspect just on the whims of some highly uneducated traffic cop.

Kansas Troopers 'Waged War On Motorists' With Bogus Stops, Interrogations: Judge



BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, JUL 28, 2023 - 09:15 PM

"The Kansas Highway Patrol has waged war on motorists -- especially out-of-state residents traveling between Colorado and Missouri on federal highway I-70," a federal judge declared on Friday in a scathing condemnation of tyrannical practices embedded in police training.

Among those practices is something cops call **the "Kansas Two-Step."** After pulling you over for a traffic violation and dispensing either a warning or a ticket, a cop starts walking away, but then turns back and asks, "Hey, can I ask you something?"



What feels like a friendly conversational question is actually intended to trick you. As [Reason's](#) Jacob Sullum explains:

"Police are not supposed to continue detaining you after the ostensible purpose of the stop has been accomplished unless they reasonably suspect you are involved in criminal activity.

The two-step is designed to extend the encounter by making it notionally voluntary, giving the officer a chance to elicit incriminating information, ask for permission to search your car, and/or walk a drug-sniffing dog around the vehicle."

Troopers are taught the technique in their training, but US District Judge Kathryn Vratil said, "**the theory that a driver who remains on the scene gives knowing and voluntary consent to further questioning is nothing but a convenient fiction.**"

"Troopers occupy a position of power and authority during a traffic stop," wrote Vratil, an appointee of George H.W. Bush, "and when a trooper quickly re-approaches a driver after a traffic stop and continues to ask questions, the authority that a trooper wields—combined with the fact that **most motorists do not know that they are free to leave and KHP troopers deliberately decline to tell them that they are free to leave**—communicates a strong message that the driver is not free to leave."



Judge Kathryn

Vratil was appointed by George H.W. Bush

The Kansas Two-Step is just one piece of a policing regime that Vratil rightly found objectionable. In her [decision](#), Vratil also criticized **pretextual traffic stops**, in which police contrive some reason to pull people over merely on the hope that they'll discover something they can arrest them for.

"As wars go, this one is relatively easy; it's simple and cheap, and for motorists, it's not a fair fight," wrote Vratil. "The war is basically a question of numbers: stop enough cars and you're bound to discover drugs. And what's the harm if a few constitutional rights are trampled along the way?"

The thicket of traffic and vehicle equipment regulations, including the ability for cops to pull drivers over for actions subjectively deemed "imprudent," means **anyone can be pulled over on a whim.**

"Even the most cautious driver would find it virtually impossible to drive for even a short distance without violating some traffic law," [writes](#) University of Pittsburgh law professor David Harris, whom Vratil cited in her ruling. **"A police officer willing to follow any driver for a few blocks would therefore always have probable cause to make a stop."**



With supplementary techniques like standing very close to cars or even placing forearms inside, troopers perform the "Kansas Two-Step" in a way that makes reasonable drivers conclude they're not free to leave, the judge ruled ([WDAF-TV](#))

Kansas state troopers disproportionately preyed on those with out-of-state license plates. "KHP troopers stopped 70 per cent more out-of-state drivers than would be expected if KHP troopers stopped in-state and out-of state drivers at the same rate...represent[ing] roughly 50,000 traffic stops," wrote Vratil.

She found the KHP has been violating tenets set down by the 2016 case of [Vasquez v Lewis](#), which rejected searches based on flimsy pretexts such as "status as a resident of Colorado." Vratil said **troopers applied "an absurd and tenuous combination of factors"** to conclude that individuals were suspicious, such as:

- Having a car with out-of-state plates
- "Seeming nervous while interacting with law enforcement"

- "Having fingerprints on the trunk lid"
- "Going on a trip with one's nephew"
- "Having a bag in the passenger seat"

Many fruitless vehicle searches were initiated by the use police dogs, whose purported alerts are determined solely by their dog handlers. That's problematic enough, but even genuine alerts are triggered by mere *odors*, not drugs per se. That means a dog could very well alert simply because someone who smoked pot -- maybe a car mechanic or the previous user of your rental car -- touched your door handle.

In the coming weeks, Judge Vratil, who was [arrested in 2019](#) on suspicion of driving under the influence, will impose an injunction. [Her ruling](#) includes a draft with provisions that would, among many other things, require troopers to:

- Communicate to drivers when they've reached the point where the traffic stop has concluded and they are free to go
- Inform drivers of their right to refuse or revoke search consent
- Obtain supervisory approval before commencing purportedly consensual searches
- Maintain better traffic-stop documentation and electronic records

Plaintiffs in the the case, *Shaw v Jones*, are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union. Yes, **on rare occasion, the ACLU -- which increasingly [throws its principles to the wind](#) to please leftist donors -- still manages to occasionally do some good.**

Journal: So the main conclusion one would natural draw form this article would be that adverse reactions from the COVID 19 vaccine only result in a .264% rate of adverse reaction. To claim an adverse reactions rate of .264% is 24 times higher than normal

vaccine is very biased reporting, clearly showing that the writer has an agenda. Articles like this one, which epoch times is well known for, will look very bad in the event of a much larger outbreak

COVID Vaccines Show 24 Times More Adverse Reactions Than Others



BY TYLER DURDEN

FRIDAY, JUL 28, 2023 - 10:30 PM

[Authored by Jessie Zhang via The Epoch Times](#) (emphasis ours),



An Australian

report on adverse reactions to vaccines has revealed that COVID-19 vaccinations had 24 times the rate of adverse reactions in compared to all other vaccines. (Alberto Pizzoli/AFP via Getty Images)

The latest report on adverse reactions to vaccines in Western Australia has revealed that **COVID-19 vaccinations have 24 times the rate of adverse reactions in the state compared to all other vaccines.**

According to the state's vaccine safety surveillance report ([pdf](#)), **COVID-19 vaccines showed that for every 100,000 COVID-19 vaccines administered, 264 adverse events following immunisations (AEFIs) were recorded.**

For all other vaccinations, 11.1 AEFIs were recorded, making the COVID-19 vaccines 23.8 times more likely than non-COVID-19 vaccines to result in adverse events.

Vaccine type	Number of vaccines administered in 2021	Number of adverse events reported to WAVSS	Rate of adverse events per 100,000 doses
Non COVID-19	1,808,050	200	11.1
COVID-19	3,948,673	10,428	264.1

*Table showing numbers of vaccines administered and adverse events reported, with rate of adverse events, for non-COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines, 2021.
(Image from the Department of Health in Western Australia)*

The rate of adverse events varied among different types of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine recorded 281.4 AEFIs per 100,000 doses, Comirnaty (Pfizer) recorded 244.8, and the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine, which was removed from the vaccine program after reports emerged of blood clotting in younger people, recorded 306.

Adverse events following vaccination can range from mild, such as a sore arm, to serious conditions, such as anaphylaxis, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), myocarditis, and pericarditis.

Collaboration Continues With 3-in-1 Super Jab

Meanwhile, despite these concerns, the Australian government's partnership with Moderna to produce vaccines using experimental messenger RNA technology to prepare for the next pandemic means these vaccines are here to stay.

The company has been forming a trifecta jab to address the main respiratory viruses— influenza, COVID-19, and RSV to maintain its market share amid the falling revenue of vaccine companies as the health crisis subsides.

Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine sales of US\$18.4 billion in 2022 are expected to dive to \$5 billion this year.

Recently, it was granted expedited approval by Australia's authority for medicines for its mRNA-1345 (RSV vaccine), meaning that the company will be able to launch the vaccines in Australia before any other country in the world.



Registered

nurse Emma Ahearn administers the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to Millie Persic sitting on the lap of mother Maria Persic in Sydney, Australia, on Jan. 11, 2022. (Jenny Evans/Getty Images)

A spokesperson from Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration told the Epoch Times that Moderna was granted an accelerated approval process on March 30 after satisfying all of the following criteria:

- the medicine is new
- the medicine is for the treatment, prevention, or diagnosis of a life-threatening condition
- no other medicines that are intended to treat, prevent or diagnose the condition are included in the Australian drug register or there is substantial evidence that this medicine provides a significant improvement in efficacy or safety of the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of the condition compared to those goods already included in the register
- there is substantial evidence that the medicine provides a major therapeutic advance.

However, phase 3 clinical trials for Moderna's mRNA version of the seasonal influenza vaccine have been underwhelming, showing a high rate of side effects.

Although the vaccine generates a strong immune response against the A strains of the flu, its efficacy against B strains is not better than existing approved vaccines.

Additionally, 70 percent of trial participants who received the shot reported adverse reactions such as headaches, swelling, and fatigue compared to 48 percent for the conventional flu vaccine.

Narrative, planet, war: Feverish BBC Reporting On European 'Heatwaves' Debunked By Actual Temperature Readings



BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, JUL 29, 2023 - 09:10 AM

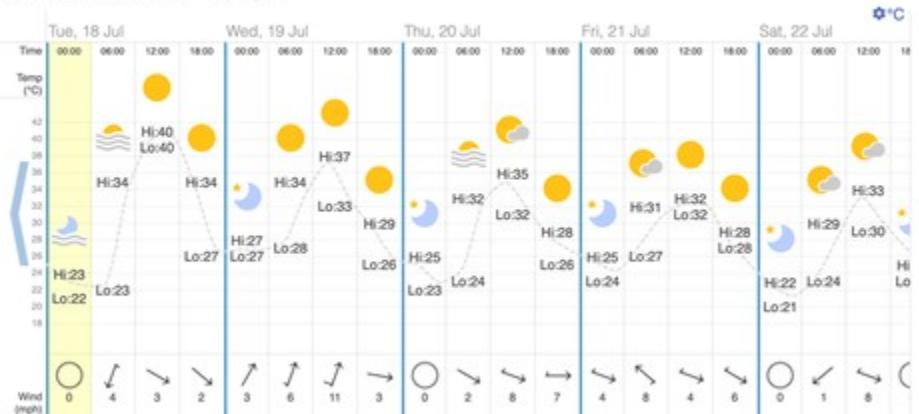
[Authored by Chris Morrison via The Daily Sceptic,](#)



Last week's heatwaves in southern Europe would have been "virtually impossible" without humans altering the climate, [reports the BBC](#), quoting model-produced work rushed to press by World Weather Attribution (WWA). Humans caused the spell of Mediterranean summer heat to be 2.5°C higher, it was said. [This latest study](#) confirms what we knew before, says frequent BBC contributor and WWA founder Dr. Friederike Otto. More to the point, last week's coverage of these heatwaves confirmed what we knew before - **the BBC will pull out all the stops to promote weather fear in the cause of the collectivist Net Zero project.**

On Tuesday July 18th the BBC reported on its rolling news feed that the island of Sardinia was expected to see a high of 46°C in the afternoon "and there are warnings that extreme heat could continue for a further 10 days".

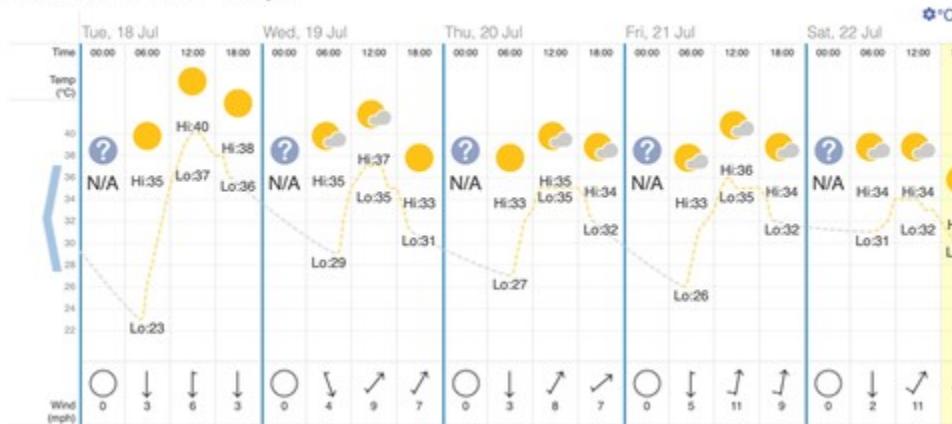
Past Weather in Sardinia — Graph



[Time and Date](#) compiles comprehensive records of past temperatures, an increasingly useful tool for checking up on ‘World on Fire’ fantasists. The graph above shows the temperature in Sardinia peaking at 40°C on July 18th and then steadily falling during the week to the lower 30s.

Also on July 18th the BBC reported that the temperature in Rome could reach 40°C and remain above that level for 15 days. Over to *Time and Date* again.

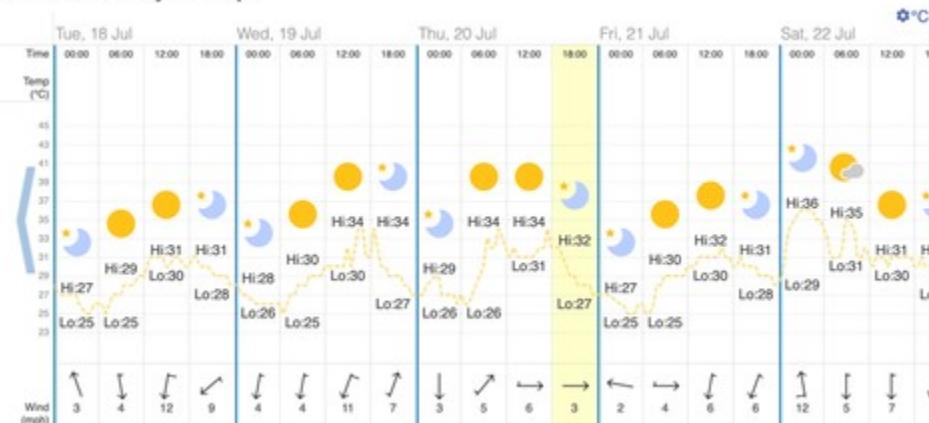
Past Weather in Rome — Graph



Here we see the temperature did briefly touch 40°C in the midday sun, but then, like Sardinia, promptly fell away for the rest of the week.

At this point, the European Space Agency entered the scare-fest and the BBC duly reported its view that Sardinia and Sicily were expected to hit a high of 48°C. As I noted [on Tuesday](#), this fanciful prediction came from a press release issued by the European Space Agency, where it started using measurements from the ground rather than the conventional air temperature.

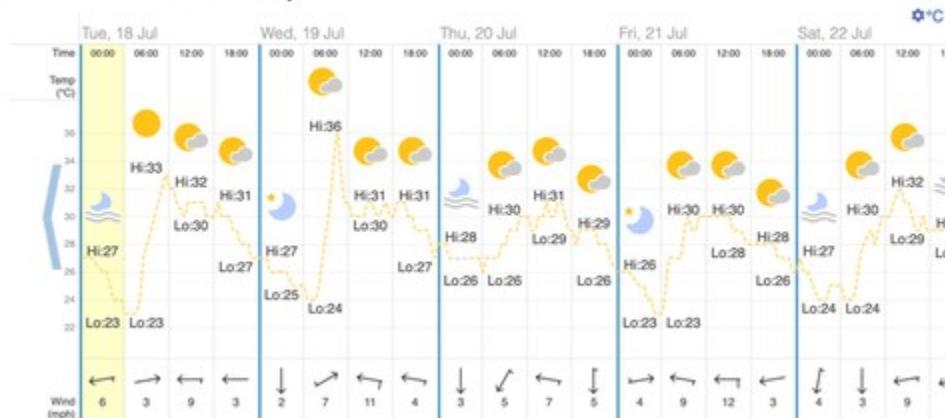
Past Weather in Sicily — Graph



No comment is required, although at this point the arrival of the Monty Python Colonel marching onto the set declaring, “stop it, this sketch is getting silly. Badly written and too silly”, might be necessary.

But before the Colonel shuts us down, let us consider the plight of Justin Rowlatt, the BBC’s green activist-in-chief who was airlifted last week into heat-torn Alicante. On the southern Spanish frontline, he reported on July 18th that the heat has been “relentless” and continued day and night. It helps explain why these periods of extreme heat “can impose such a burden on people’s health”, he observed. Rising at 6:30am to do his first broadcast, he reported it was 27°C.

Past Weather in Alicante — Graph



Alas, for our intrepid William Boot, it only briefly touched 33°C that day, and by the weekend the temperature in Alicante was struggling to stay in the 30s.

But for the BBC, it's job well done. The mainstream media headlines screamed on cue about imminent Thermogeddon. Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* this Tuesday, Suzanne Moore [said](#) the “world is on fire – and we can’t ignore it any longer”. Arsonists took the opportunity to light fires on the Greek island of Rhodes, but to Moore, observing a hasty retreat by holiday makers, “this is what climate refugees look like”. BBC Dragon’s Den celeb Deborah Meaden noted that arson “might” have been responsible, but then took the opportunity to widen the debate by claiming – without a shred of proof – “we are about to see the [first countries abandoned](#) due to rising sea levels”.

Meanwhile, the World Weather Attribution operation, partly funded by green billionaire investor Jeremy Grantham, adds to the mix with its modelled guesses based on imaginary climates with and without human-produced carbon dioxide. As we have noted in past articles, attribution studies is a growing branch of climate alarmism, but it fails the bedrock science falsification principle outlined by the science philosopher Karl Popper. Former IPCC author and economics professor Roger Pielke Jr. is a [fierce critic](#), noting that he can think of no other

area of research “where the relaxing of rigour and standards has been encouraged by research in order to generate claims more friendly to headlines, political advocacy and even lawsuits”.

Pielke suggests that the rise of individual event attribution studies coincides with frustration that **the IPCC has not “definitively concluded” that many types of extreme weather have become commonplace**. In his view, they offer “comfort and support” to those focused on climate advocacy.

Undoubtedly WWA leads the way in providing simple, press-ready, clickbait material. Its latest press release on the European heatwaves notes that it uses “published peer-reviewed” methods, and backing this up there is a link to [Philip et al.](#) But it might be more accurate to describe this 2020 paper as ‘mates’ helpful suggestions’. One of the named authors, for instance is none other than Friederike Otto. Another author was Julie Arrighi from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, a person identified by the BBC as one of the authors of the latest WWA report. Helpful suggestions include the advice that communicating only a lower bound, because it is mathematically better defined in many cases, “is not advisable”. Furthermore, “quoting only the lower bound de-emphasises the most likely result and therefore communicates too conservative an estimate”. **We can’t be having well-defined, conservative estimates now, can we.**

Chris Morrison is the Daily Sceptic’s Environment Editor.

Journal: Everything above needs to be reread

History, Europe, latins, venetians: . **The Savoy-led Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia was thus the legal predecessor of the Kingdom of Italy, which in turn is the predecessor of the present-day Italian Republic.[19]**

By the time of the [Crimean War](#) in 1853, the Savoyards had built the kingdom into a strong power. There followed the annexation of [Lombardy](#) (1859), the [central Italian states](#) and the [Two Sicilies](#) (1860), [Venetia](#) (1866), and the [Papal States](#) (1870). On 17

March 1861, to more accurately reflect its new geographic, cultural and political extent, the Kingdom of Sardinia [changed its name to the Kingdom of Italy](#), and its capital was eventually moved first to [Florence](#) and then to [Rome](#). The Savoy-led Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia was thus the [legal predecessor](#) of the Kingdom of Italy, which in turn is the predecessor of the present-day [Italian Republic](#).^[19]

[Kingdom of Sardinia - Wikipedia](#)

From the late 11th century, Western merchants, primarily from the [Italian city-states](#) of [Venice](#), [Genoa](#) and [Pisa](#), had started appearing in the East. The first had been the Venetians, who had secured large-scale trading concessions from [Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos](#). Subsequent extensions of these privileges and Byzantium's own [naval impotence](#) at the time resulted in a virtual maritime monopoly and stranglehold over the Empire by the Venetians.^[5]

.....

In early 1171, however, when the Venetians attacked and largely destroyed the Genoese quarter in Constantinople, the Emperor retaliated by ordering the [mass arrest](#) of all Venetians throughout the Empire and the confiscation of their property. There were also mass rapes and the burning of houses. A subsequent Venetian expedition in the Aegean failed: a direct assault was impossible due to the strength of the imperial forces, and the Venetians agreed to negotiations, which the Emperor stalled intentionally. As talks dragged on through the winter, the Venetian fleet waited at [Chios](#), until an outbreak of the plague forced them to withdraw.^[8]

[Massacre of the Latins - Wikipedia](#)

Church and state were formally separated by a 1905 law which became the bedrock of French secularism

[French secularism explained - France 24](#)

Readlater: Blood and soil : a world history of genocide and extermination from Sparta to Darfur

[Blood and soil : a world history of genocide and extermination from Sparta to Darfur : Kiernan, Ben : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

The Amsterdam Stock Exchange, founded in 1602, is considered the oldest "modern"

securities market stock exchange in the world.

amsterdam is small, but still considered a global city

--

[Amsterdam - Wikipedia](#)

Journal, censorship, media: **Article says the largest pornsite on the internet for decades has been owned by a shadowy group of ex bankers, and nobody really knows anything about them either...**

"The move comes amid a lawsuit against the parent company, MindGeek, over sexually explicit videos of minors found on its 'tube' sites, the [Financial Times](#) reports.

Luxembourg-registered MindGeek has towered over the adult industry since the advent of video streaming. Its most recently published figures show revenues in 2018 reached \$460mn while profit margins have at times neared 50 per cent, according to people familiar with the matter.

The identity of MindGeek's former majority owner Bernd Bergmair — an ex-Goldman Sachs banker who also uses the name Bernard Bergemar — was first revealed by an FT investigation."

zerohedgedotcom/political/pornhub-acquired-canadian-private-equity-firm-ethical-capital-partners

but then when you read the article linked in the financial times report, it just goes to an article from last year-- meaning the owners of the largest porn company online have, for years, been completely unknown to the public...

wtf??

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Save

current progress 0%

Patricia Nilsson and **Alex Barker**

JULY 29 2022

58[Print this page](#)

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We'll send you a *myFT Daily Digest* email rounding up the latest Media news every morning.

When Financial Times reporter Patricia Nilsson started digging into the porn industry, she made a shocking discovery: nobody knew who controlled [the biggest porn company](#) in the world. Now,

Nilsson and her editor, Alex Barker, reveal who is behind it and much more. This eight-part investigative podcast, published weekly, reveals the secret history of the adult business and the billionaires and financial institutions who shape it.

Subscribe and listen on: [Apple Podcasts](#)(opens a new window), [Spotify](#)(opens a new window), [Pocket Casts](#)(opens a new window), [Stitcher](#)(opens a new window) or wherever you listen to podcasts.

And in an even stranger twist to this whole story, the recently revealed owners of pornhub have also sold the company to a brand new Canadian private equity firm that has absolutely zero transaction history.

..Not suspicious or anything....

"The purchase is ECP's first transaction. The company is led by "cannabis entrepreneur Rocco Meliambro and criminal lawyer Fady Mansour, who is listed as managing partner. Derek Ogden, a retired chief superintendent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, is also a partner at the firm," according to *Bloomberg*."

zerohedgedotcom/political/pornhub-acquired-canadian-private-equity-firm-ethical-capital-partners

"MindGeek has since confirmed that Mastercard reinstated access to its subscription sites but not for its advertising arm TrafficJunky, which was cut off by the credit card companies last year when a court ruling found Visa could be held liable for illegal content on tube sites."

<https://www.ft.com/content/69c3295e-6f45-4b5f-8e7b-3b8d56ca46c8>

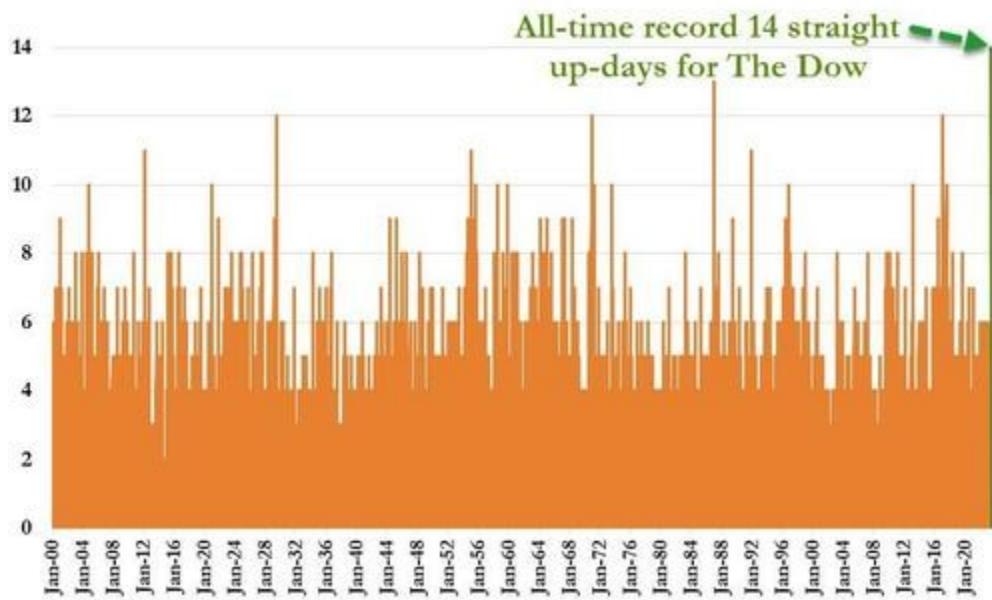
Archive, journal, markets, government, asia, stats:

Just saving this whole zh report. They breakdown how the market lost momentum simply from the rumor of yield curve control. Obviously, it would be easy to make money being on the right side of this kind information.

Market Panics After Planted Story Of BOJ YCC Tweak Sends Stocks Tumbling, Yields And Yen Soaring

by tyler durden, july 27th, 5:05pm

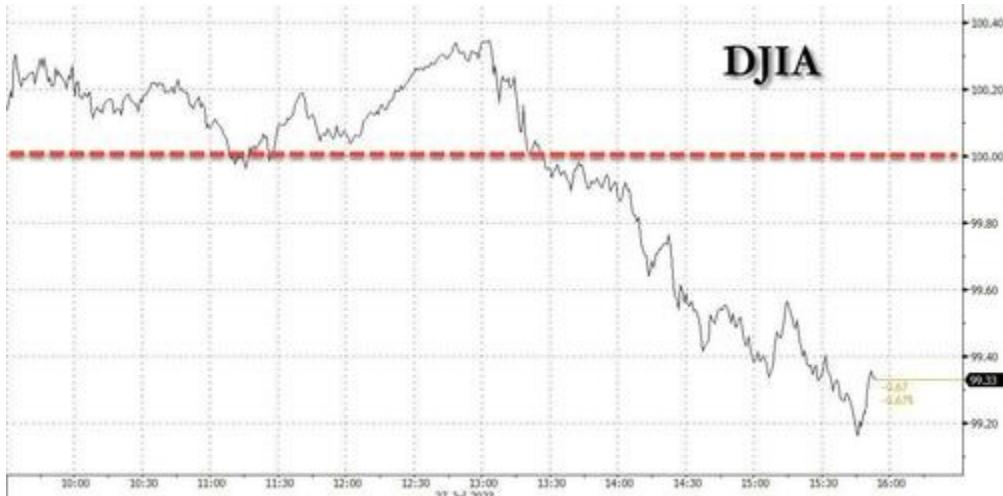
With just three hours to go until the oldest US equity index was set to close green for the 14th day in a row, its longest stretch of gains since the Dow Jones' inception in 1896....



... and with stocks levitating merrily one day after Powell effectively gave the green light to keep buying by assuring markets that the "July Goodbye" was, for all intents and purposes, the last rate hike, the market suddenly deflated like a Hindenburg balloon encountering a spark just after 1pm Eastern when the BOJ's favorite mouthpiece, the Nikkei, decided **at the perfectly obvious local time of 2am**, to [blast a report](#) claiming that the BOJ would "**discuss**" tweaking its

infamous yield curve control (something it did back in December to catastrophic consequences).

That was all it took to reverse all the Dow gains and send it deep in the red, putting a screeching halt to all imminent celebrations of euphoric market stupidity.



Mind you, the report said ***nothing new***: just last week, Bloomberg reported exactly the same when it also noted that a YCC discussion was imminent, however with the ***substantial caveat*** that the BOJ would end up doing nothing despite said discussion.

Bloomberg US Edt

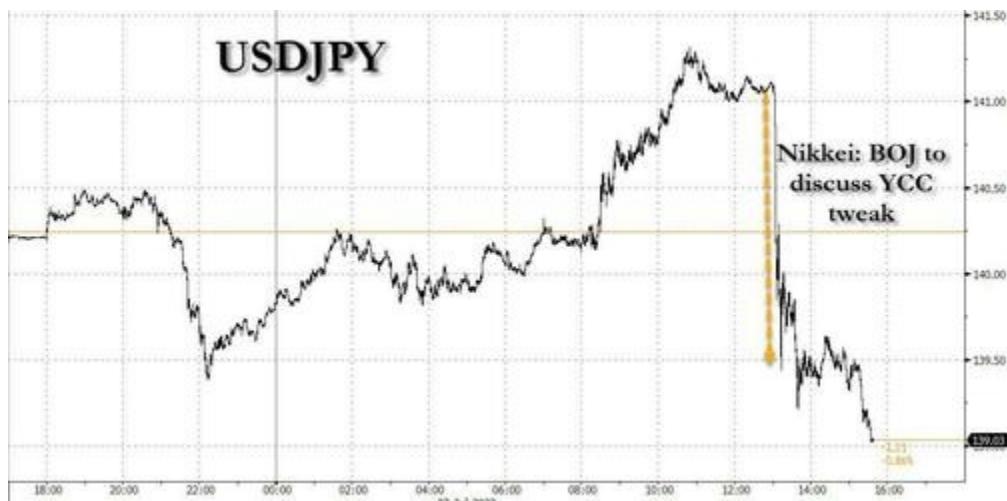
Live Now Markets **Economics** Industries Tech AI Politics Wealth Pursuits Opinion Businessweek Equality Green

Economics Central Banks

BOJ Sees Little Need to Act on Yield Control for Now, Sources Say

- Officials see smooth bond yield curve, people familiar say
- Board will likely discuss YCC change even as holds, they add

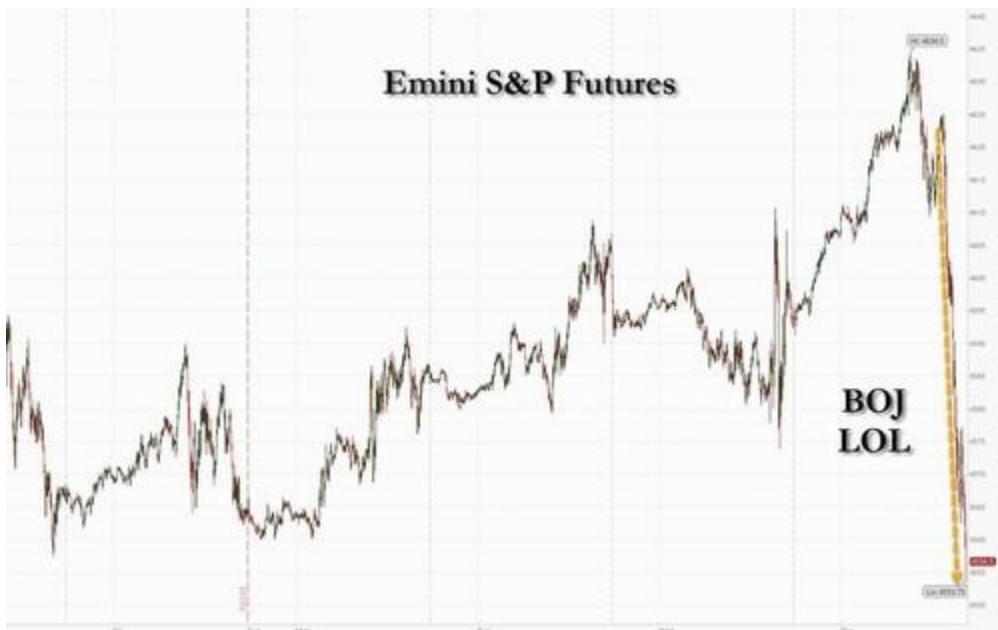
What the report **did**, was spark a marketwide momemtum reversal (as amateur retail traders once again got spooked out by whoever planted the trial balloon, who just happened to be long the yen) and stop hunt, as first the USDJPY plunged below the key level of 141 and then 140...



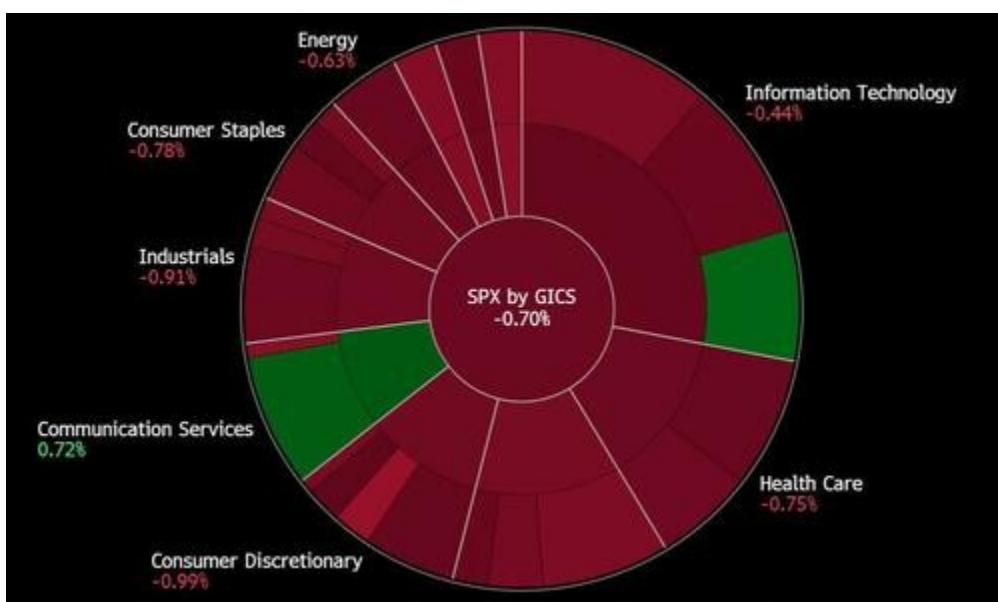
.... while fears that the BOJ would spark another round of JGB liquidations, sent both JGBs and US Treasuries (recall Japan is the largest foreign holder of TSYs, so dumping JGBs would suggest less demand for US paper too) crashing, with the 10Y yield surging above 4.00%



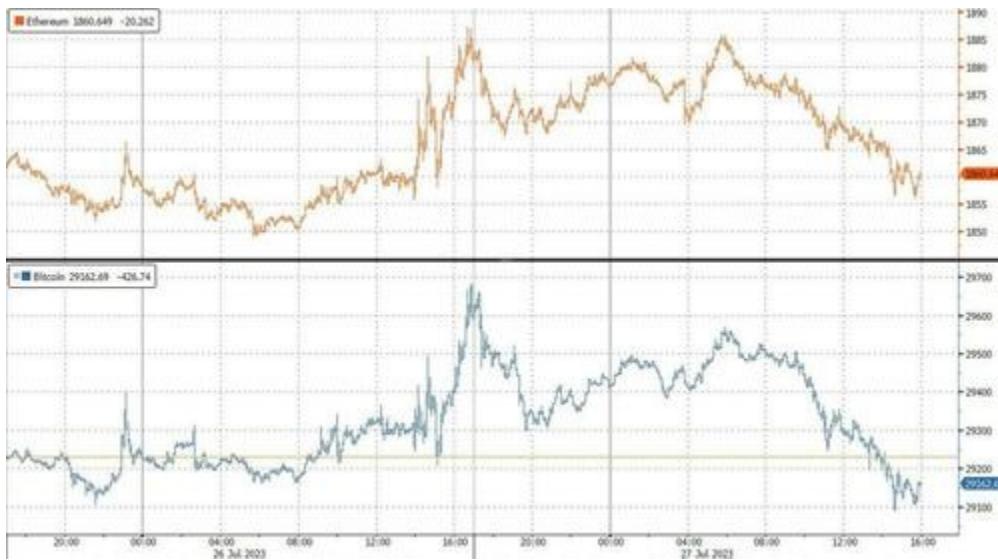
And since everyone is watching the 4.00% level as a catalyst to sell long duration assets - you know, those stocks which are up 50%, 100%, or much more YTD - spooks promptly panicked, and tumbled 70 points after the planted BOJ story.



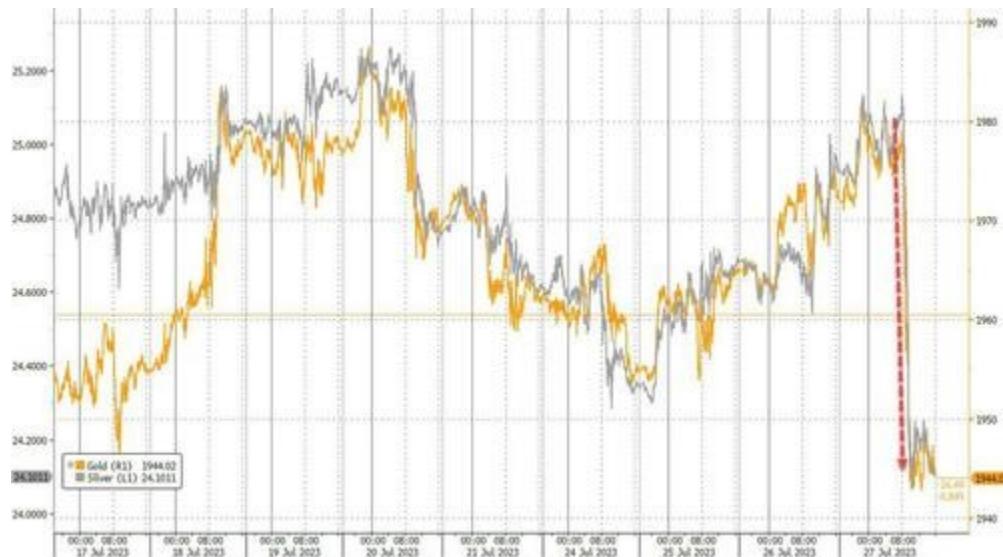
Pretty much every sector (with the exception of Communications services, where last night's META earnings blowout kept the lights on), was red.



The carnage spilled over into crypto...



.... and even precious metals were hammered although the pain here started well before the BOJ news, and instead it was today's stellar US economic data that sparked the rout.



The only asset class that did well, was the most beaten down one: oil briefly tipped above \$80 and having crossed back above its 200DMA for the first time this year, is a fraction away from a new bull market and much more gains.



Turning to the world of derivatives, flows followed price: according to SpotGamma, put buyers came in this afternoon, unlocking after the SPX touched fresh highs at the 4600 Call Wall. Yet absent into the afternoon was 0DTE flow (red) - one would have assumed that they try would bring some mean reversion before the close, but it was not meant to be.



By SpotGamma

Stats, journal: Euler's number

“The number e, also known as Euler's number, is a mathematical constant **approximately equal to 2.71828** that can be characterized in many ways.”

[e \(mathematical constant\) - Wikipedia](#)

July on track to be hottest month ever recorded, analysis shows

July on track to be hottest month ever recorded, analysis shows

Story by Jackie Ruryk • 3h ago

J uly will be the hottest month ever recorded, surpassing by a "considerable margin" the previous record for the same month set four years ago, according to a new analysis by Germany's Leipzig University.

The analysis released Thursday found that this month had 23 consecutive days of record global temperatures and is on track to be more than 0.2 C warmer than July 2019, the former front-runner in the 174-year observational record.

"It's certain at this point already that we are in absolutely new record territory," said Karsten Haustein, the climate scientist who led the analysis.

The average temperature for July is forecast to about 1.5 C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level, before the planet was warmed by burning coal, oil and gas and other human activities.

Normally, the global mean temperature for July is around 16 C, inclusive of the Southern Hemisphere winter. But this July it has surged to near 17 C.

Michael Mann, a climate scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, said it was clear by mid-July that it was going to be a record warm month, and the analysis provided an "indicator of a planet that will continue to warm as long as we burn fossil fuels."

[July on track to be hottest month ever recorded, analysis shows](#)
[\(msn.com\)](#)

Stats, journal:

female hysteria: a common medical observation verified through 4000 years of history

[Women And Hysteria In The History Of Mental Health - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

[Female hysteria - Wikipedia](#)

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, hysteria was a common psychiatric diagnosis made primarily in women. The existence and nature of a purported **male hysteria** (*hysteria masculina*^[1]) was a debated topic around the turn of the century. It was originally believed that men could not suffer from hysteria because of their lack of uterus.^[2]

[Male hysteria - Wikipedia](#)

Censorship, stats, media, journal (find prior statistics): Concerns Raised Over Number Of Students Identifying As LGBT

BY TYLER DURDEN

SATURDAY, JUL 22, 2023 - 05:30 PM

[Authored by Doug Lett via The Epoch Times.](#)

The head of the group Unified Grassroots in Saskatchewan is raising concerns about gender ideology in the classroom.

Nadine Ness said she has been contacted by several parents who are worried about the percentage of students in some classrooms who are identifying as LGBT.

In one case, she said, a father told her that **in his 13-year-old son's class, 13 out of 30 young people identify as LGBT.**

She was also notified of a principal in a different school telling a parent that **some 32 percent of Grade 7 and 8 students are identifying as LGBT.**

Her concern is that the percentages seem very high.

"I think it sends a clear message that something is happening in the classroom that is leading kids to go that route of either identifying or being confused about gender," she told The Epoch Times.

"That 32 percent is not what's reflected in society."

"It just confirms what I'm hearing from parents across the province," she added. "It's not every classroom. It seems that they all have a few things in common

where the children will have been exposed to teachers or people within the school system that are constantly pushing that ideology."

She went on to say that it is probably normal that some children would identify—but not the percentages she is being told.

"I'm sure there's some of them that do identify, but that many kids are getting confused—we have to ask ourselves, is this what's in the best interest of the children that are going into these schools?"

Ms. Ness said she has been told some of the numbers come from a survey within the Saskatchewan school system, but said she has not been able to find out much about it.

"And if it's province wide, I wanted the public to start demanding accountability from the government ... I have yet to be able to get a copy of it to know what questions are asked and I actually had some teachers reach out to me, and they told me they don't even get to see the questions ... They're putting these kids in front of a computer screen to answer the survey, and no teacher gets to actually see what questions are asked."

The Epoch Times contacted the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education for more information about the survey, but did not get a response by deadline.

For Ms. Ness, the issue is why the percentage of young people identifying is so high.

"I hope it triggers studies and for the Ministry of Education to look into this," she said.

"Is it just confusion? Is it indoctrination? Or is this really just where we're going as a society?" she asked.

"Is this natural or not natural?"

Unified Grassroots is a non-profit organization that was started by parents in 2021 over concerns about the effect of COVID-19 policies on children. Ms. Ness said they have thousands of members and followers provincewide.

Censorship, stats, media, archive: Against SecDef's Wish, Diversity- Obsessed Biden Picks Woman To Lead Navy

BY TYLER DURDEN

SUNDAY, JUL 23, 2023 - 09:36 AM

Casting aside the recommendation of his defense secretary, President Biden on Friday nominated Admiral Lisa Franchetti to command the US Navy. If confirmed, she would be the first woman to command a military branch and the first on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

[Biden's move took many observers by surprise](#), as Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had recommended Admiral Samuel Paparo for the position. **Paparo is TOPGUN graduate** with more than 6,000 hours in F-14s, F-15s and F/A-18s, 1,100 carrier landings and experience commanding forces in war zones.

However, **with the Biden administration obsessed with diversity hires, Paparo's bid was likely doomed by the fact that he's a white man.**



As

Commander of the US Pacific Fleet, Admiral Samuel Paparo visits the forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan in June 2021 (Oswald Felix/US Navy)

"Throughout her career, Adm. Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the operational and policy arenas," said Biden in a [statement](#). He of course couldn't help but emphasize her gender: **"She is the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the United States Navy."**

Though his recommendation wasn't heeded, Austin praised Franchetti, saying "She will continue to inspire all of us." Biden's choice of a woman to lead the Navy comes 15 months after **he picked a woman to command the Coast Guard.**

With 38 years of service that began with service on and command of [destroyers](#), Franchetti is currently the vice chief of naval operations, the Navy's second-highest position. As [then-commander of the Sixth Fleet](#), **she was an instrument of President Trump's unconstitutional warfare on Syria** in response to an alleged use of chemical weapons by President Assad that [likely never happened](#).



Admiral Lisa

Franchetti previously commanded the USA Navy's Sixth Fleet

A Northwestern University Navy ROTC product, **Franchetti must be confirmed by the Senate. That may not happen quickly.**

Alabama Senator **Tommy Tuberville has been putting holds on military confirmations to protest the Pentagon's policy of paying for service members to travel for abortions**, a policy he says is illegal. "An unprecedented change to the military's abortion policy ought to go before the people's elected representatives in Congress," he wrote in a [Wall Street Journal](#) op-ed.

As he announced his pick of Franchetti, Biden blasted Tuberville, saying, "It has long been an article of faith in this country that supporting our service members and their families, and providing for the strength of our national defense, transcends politics. **What Sen. Tuberville is doing is not only wrong, it is dangerous.**"

As for Paparo, Biden nominated him on Friday to lead Indo-Pacific Command, which has an area of responsibility spanning about 52% of the Earth's surface.

That's all well and good, but, if he wants a shot at the Navy's top job the next time it comes open, he might consider coming out as trans.

Stats, markets, history: **Visualizing America's \$20 Trillion Economy By State**

[zerohedgedotcom/economics/visualizing-americas-20-trillion-economy-state](https://www.zerohedgedotcom/economics/visualizing-americas-20-trillion-economy-state)

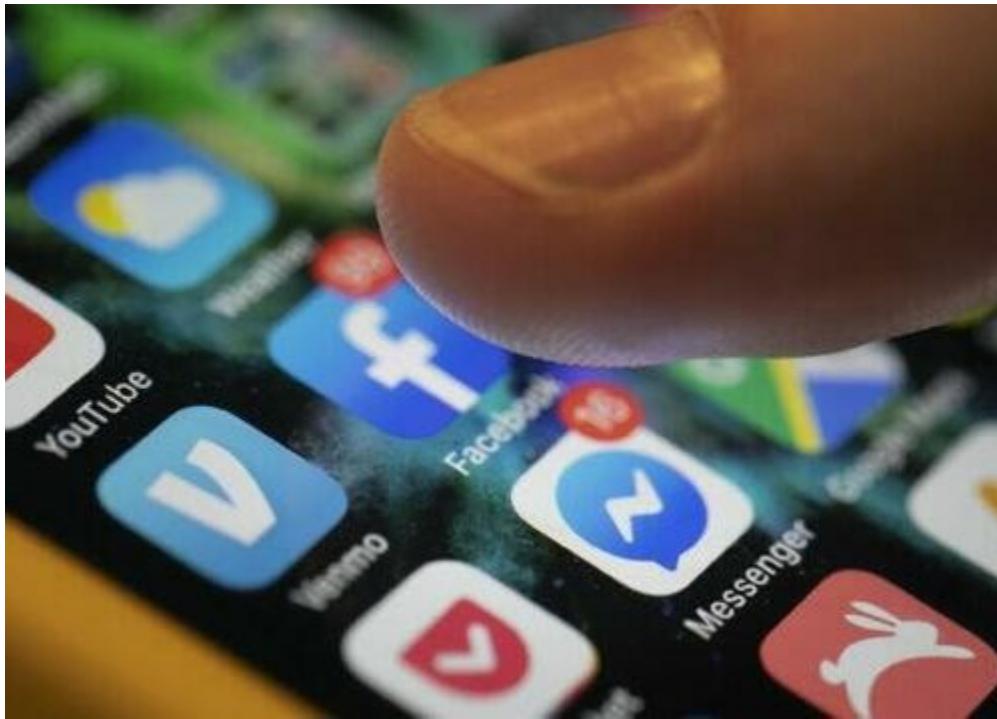
Censorship, government, journal:

'The Perfect Crime': Tech Companies Are Manipulating Our Elections And Indoctrinating Our Children — How We Can Stop Them

"[Tristan Harris](#), a former "design ethicist" at Google, says that he was a member of a team at the company, whose job it was to influence "a billion people's attention and thoughts every day." [Jaron Lanier](#), a computer scientist and one of the early investors in Google and Facebook, claims that Big Tech content has "morphed into continuous behavior modification on a mass basis." Another early investor in these companies, the prominent author and venture capitalist [Roger McNamee](#), has said that he now regrets having financed them, and asserts that they constitute "a menace to public health and to democracy.***

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[Authored by Robert Epstein via the Gatestone Institute,](#)



Big Tech companies are deliberately manipulating the outcomes of our elections and the thinking and beliefs of our children. And they are having an enormous impact.

If you doubt that, consider this latest snippet of data from my lab, the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology ([AIBRT](#)).

Consider this: The GOP currently has a slim 10-seat majority in the House of Representatives. Without Google's interference in 2022, it would likely now have a majority of more than three times that size.

The 2022 midterm elections that gave the Democrats a two-vote majority in the U.S. Senate had quite a bit of help from Google, and, to a lesser extent, from a couple of other major tech companies.

If Google had not interfered in the 2022 midterm elections, the GOP would likely have ended up with a Senate majority of at least two seats.

The Big Tech companies that exploded into existence over the past 20 years -- as some of their prominent insiders have stated -- have undermined our democracy, indoctrinated our children, and increasingly turned our freedom into an illusion.

[Tristan Harris](#), a former "design ethicist" at Google, says that he was a member of a team at the company, whose job it was to influence "a billion people's

attention and thoughts every day." [Jaron Lanier](#), a computer scientist and one of the early investors in Google and Facebook, claims that Big Tech content has "morphed into continuous behavior modification on a mass basis." Another early investor in these companies, the prominent author and venture capitalist [Roger McNamee](#), has said that he now regrets having financed them, and asserts that they constitute "a menace to public health and to democracy."

Rigorous Research

Such concerns are valid and the Senate numbers correct: we have been using rigorous, scientific methods to study Google and other tech companies for more than 10 years. During this time, we have discovered and quantified about a dozen powerful new forms of influence that the internet has made possible. We have also developed and deployed monitoring systems that track, record, and analyze the personalized content that Google and other tech companies send to voters and children 24 hours a day – in other words, we are monitoring their systems and doing to *them* what they do to us.

Our basic scientific, peer-reviewed studies clearly show the power that Google and other companies have to alter thinking and behavior. Our monitoring systems confirm that these companies are *actually using* these techniques, as confirmed by company [whistleblowers](#), as well as by leaks of [documents](#), [emails](#), [videos](#), and [other materials](#) from Google, [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

The techniques we have discovered – the [Search Engine Manipulation Effect](#), the [Answer Bot Effect](#), the [Targeted Messaging Effect](#), and others – can easily shift the opinions and voting preferences of undecided voters by between 20% and 80% after just one manipulation. Google can also repeat these manipulations many times over a period of months prior to an election.

Assuming the effects of these techniques are additive, Google can likely produce even larger shifts in opinions and voting preferences than the ones from a single manipulation used just once.

Google also knows *exactly* who is vulnerable to these manipulations – who is still undecided before Election Day, for example – so they can target and bombard just the right people on a massive scale 24 hours a day.

Our research has shown repeatedly that the manipulations used can make them invisible to people, and can often produce shifts of 40% or more in the voting preferences of undecided voters without anyone having the slightest idea they have been manipulated. They *feel* free, even while they are being strongly controlled. As one journalist [wrote](#), "It really is the perfect crime."

Finally, our research measures the influence of "ephemeral experiences" -- their term -- meaning content that is seen briefly, affects the user, and then disappears forever, leaving no paper trail for authorities to trace. Most online content - search results, newsfeeds, video sequence, and so on - are ephemeral.

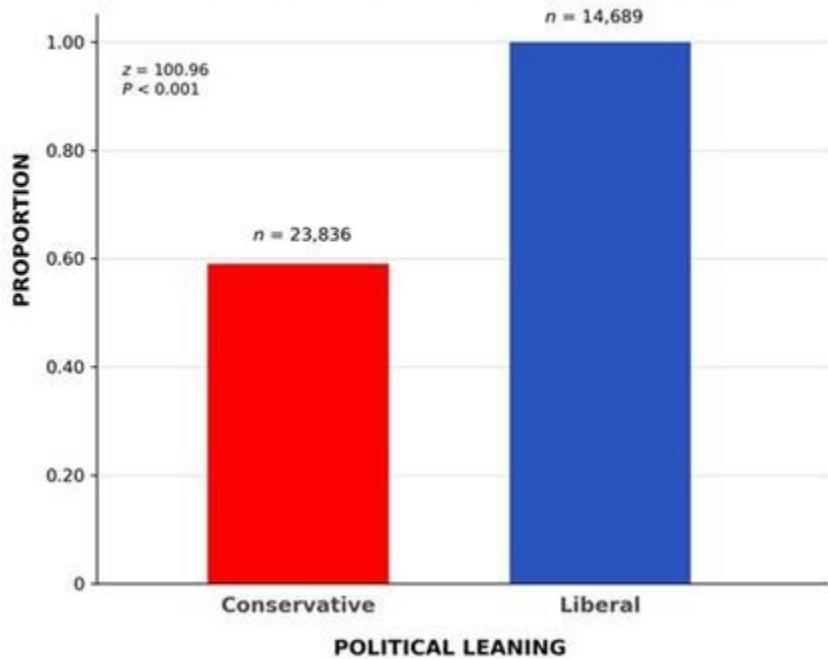
Can Google deliberately use ephemeral content to manipulate people? You bet. If you doubt that, read this [2018 article](#) from the *Wall Street Journal* about some leaked emails from the company. In that email exchange, Googlers are discussing how they might use "ephemeral experiences" to change people's views about Trump's temporary 2017 travel ban on visitors from seven majority-Muslim countries.

Rapidly Growing Monitoring Capabilities

In the days leading up to the 2022 midterms, the American Institute for Behavioral Research and Technology monitored Big Tech content through the computers of 2,742 registered voters in 10 swing states, and preserved more than 2.5 million ephemeral experiences - data that is normally lost forever - on Google and other platforms.

We preserved overwhelming evidence of Google's manipulations on their search engine, on their video recommendations on YouTube (owned by Google), and even on their homepage on Election Day. On that day in Florida, for example, 100% of liberals received go-vote reminders on their version of Google's homepage (Figure 1), but only 59% of conservatives did (Figure 2).

**PROPORTION OF GO-VOTE REMINDERS RECEIVED ON NOV. 8, 2022
BY POLITICAL LEANING OF RECIPIENTS (FL)**



The Tried and Tested Solution: a Permanent, Self-Sustaining Monitoring System

Google can, overall, easily shift the votes of between 20-80% of undecided voters; right now, that is about 40% of the electorate. This could be enormously consequential. By mid-2024, 20% of voters will likely still not have made up their minds on who to support. At that point, Google will still be able to shift up to 80% of the votes of those individuals -- or up to 16% percent of the electorate.

If, in 2024, 158 million people cast ballots, as they did in 2020, it means Google could likely shift the votes of between 6.4 and 25.5 million people, thereby easily controlling the outcome of any election in which the projected win margin is less than 4%. No laws or regulations are in place to stop them, but our monitoring can. We are monitoring their systems and doing to *them* what they do to us. When the Big Tech companies know that their manipulations are being watched, they back off. It has already worked to completely shut down manipulations in one important election.

On November 5, 2020, three U.S. Senators sent a [strong warning letter](#) to the CEO of Google expressing concern about the extreme political bias our

monitoring system had detected in the days leading up to the presidential election – bias sufficient to have shifted at least 6 million votes to Joe Biden.

As a result, Google *immediately shut down* its election manipulations in the two upcoming Senate runoff elections in Georgia.

We were monitoring Google content through the computers of a politically-balanced group of more than 1,000 registered voters in that state. Go-vote reminders ceased, and so did bias in Google search results.

In other words, monitoring, combined with political pressure from our leaders and our public, can and will force Google and other tech companies to stay clear of our elections and our children. It will also give legislators, regulators, and litigants the ammunition they need to challenge both the company and its executives in court.

Since 2016, we set up six election monitoring systems, for *only* the weeks leading up to each election. After the 2022 midterms – with the results being so blatant and disturbing – we decided that the time had finally come to set up a permanent monitoring system in all 50 states – a \$50 million project that we were able to launch with \$3 million in donations from some patriotic Americans.

Without a permanent system like this in place, we will never know the extent to which Google-and-the-Gang are messing with our elections, our kids, or even with our own heads.

Yes, they do mess with us. As explained in "[How Google Stopped the Red Wave](#)," whenever you see online content screaming about Democrats who have perpetrated widespread ballot harvesting or ballot box stuffing, you are being manipulated by Google-and-the-Gang. It is their algorithms – controlled very precisely by their employees – that decide what content goes viral and what content is suppressed. If stories about other election irregularities are spreading like wildfire online and then being echoed on the news, it is because Google-and-the-Gang want them to. Why?

So you will not look at *them* – at the tech companies themselves.

As of this writing, we are preserving and analyzing Big Tech content through the computers of a politically-balanced group of 9,838 registered voters in all 50 states, and we have met our minimum "representative sample" thresholds in 5 states. We are also now monitoring and preserving content – some of which is quite alarming – through the phones and mobile devices of children and teens.

Best of all, we have now preserved more than 25 million ephemeral experiences on Google and other platforms – content that is normally lost forever. Our goal is

to make our findings available to the public in real time, 24 hours a day, through dashboards such as [America's Digital Shield](#).

The problem is: unless we can find additional major funding soon, we will have to start scaling down our effort in August and may have to shut it down completely soon after.

If this type of election interference continues unmonitored and unchallenged, could the GOP itself – and ultimately all of American democracy – become ephemeral experiences?

zerohedgedotcom/technology/perfect-crime-tech-companies-are-manipulating-our-elections-and-indoctrinating-our

Journal: In today's new world, even the seemingly harmless act of liking a tweet can now result in the resignation of high level management at important universities in America.

Thomas Jefferson University President Resigns After "Liking" Inconvenient Tweets

By Molly Gamble of [Becker Hospital Review](#)

Mark Tykocinski, MD, has resigned from his roles as president of Thomas Jefferson University and interim dean of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College in Philadelphia.

Jefferson CEO Joseph G. Cacchione, MD, wrote in an email to the university community July 20 that Dr. Tykocinski is exiting his leadership roles "to focus on his research," according to a copy of the message obtained by *Becker's*. Dr. Cacchione said Dr. Tykocinski's cancer immunotherapy research has reached a pivotal stage. He will continue his work as a professor.

Dr. Tykocinski started as president of Thomas Jefferson University July 1, 2022. He previously served as the university's provost and executive vice president for

academic affairs and as dean of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College. Much of his research centers on immunotherapy and gene therapy — he holds a series of patents related to protein and cellular engineering.

"We appreciate Dr. Tykocinski's years of transformational service to Jefferson and wish him an abundance of success in his scientific and other endeavors given their importance to humanity," Dr. Cacchione wrote.

Board member Susan Aldridge, PhD, is now the interim president of Thomas Jefferson University, and Steven Herrine, MD, vice dean of undergraduate medical education, will serve as interim dean of the medical school. Dr. Cacchione's email notes that the university's searches for a provost and medical school dean were nearing completion.

Dr. Tykocinski's resignation followed controversy this spring when [tweets he had "liked"](#) were called into question. Some tweets questioned the validity and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and called gender reassignment surgery "child mutilation."

Dr. Tykocinski said he used the "like" function on Twitter to bookmark tweets — not endorse them — in an effort to learn more about the subject matter and better understand particular points of view.

At the time, Dr. Cacchione conveyed disappointment in Dr. Tykocinski's "careless" use of the social media network to the Jefferson community. "At his level, he is held to a higher standard and should have known better," Dr. Cacchione wrote in an email to faculty, employees and students.

zerohedgedotcom/covid-19/thomas-jefferson-university-president-resigns-after-twitter-trouble Sent with Tutanota, enjoy secure & ad-free emails.

Journal, censorship, government:

The US Government's New 'Ministry of Truth': The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

[Authored by Peter Schweizer via The Gatestone Institute,](#)

Mission creep is a serious problem in the federal government, and the ongoing investigations by House Republicans into "weaponization" of government misdeeds have shown how pervasive and deep the problem can be.

The FBI, Justice Department, CIA and even the Internal Revenue Service all look as we have seen, like tempting operatives for use against political opponents or to run interference for allies. But what about an agency that is supposed to protect us against cyber threats? **A new [interim report](#) from the House Judiciary Committee [highlights](#) politically motivated mission creep where we might least have expected it: The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ([CISA](#)).**

CISA, an agency of the Department of Homeland Security, was created in 2018 with a simple, non-political mission statement: "To prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of cyberattacks." As [reported](#) here [previously](#), CISA works to prevent state-sanctioned hackers from attacking and compromising America's digital infrastructure. The agency exists to warn companies and government entities of pending computer vulnerabilities. It also works to stop ransomware attacks on American companies and their computer networks, and to minimize damage from cyber exploits by foreign and domestic sources. In short, CISA's mission brief was to watch out for attacks on our digital "boxes and wires."

Instead, as the House Judiciary Committee report [documents](#), **CISA "has facilitated the censorship of Americans directly and through third-party intermediaries."** The agency, under the administration of President Joe Biden and under the leadership of Jen Easterly, ramped up efforts to flag "misinformation and disinformation" on social media. According to documents the committee obtained only through subpoena, CISA considered the creation of an anti-misinformation "rapid response team" capable of physically deploying across the United States to stamp out what it would decide constituted such "misinformation." **The agency went, for example, from ensuring the digital security of American voting systems to censoring criticism of those systems.**

The internal [communications](#) of agency staff and members of its outside advisory group show they knew they were on thin legal ground. Members of CISA's advisory committee agonized that it was "only a matter of time before someone realizes we exist and starts asking about our work," the report said.

After the Biden administration was sued in federal court, CISA outsourced its censorship operation to a non-profit group funded by CISA itself. The Judiciary Committee report charges that the outsourcing was an implicit admission that CISA knew that its censorship activities were unconstitutional. CISA, meanwhile,

said that it outsourced material to another agency to "avoid the appearance of government propaganda."

Today, a look at the agency's [website](#) and [Twitter accounts](#) shows only its statutory activity – issuing warnings about ransomware attacks and "zero-day" exploits, warning about hardware vulnerabilities, and some educational advice for ordinary Americans on staying safe during their online activities. This is important work, as the US is under constant cyberattack from state-sanctioned, or state-tolerated, hackers operating from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran. **These hackers extort millions of dollars from companies and institutions through overt attacks that can cripple their networks and computers.** Cyber criminals go in hard, looking for cash, while cyber espionage attacks attempt to go in quietly, harvesting secrets without detection. Stopping them at the firewall is a matter of national security.

So, to dilute that mission with a politically motivated dive into censorship is unconscionable and dangerous. The Judiciary Committee is right to pursue this inquiry to prevent CISA from going off the rails again, as their own mission pledges.

There is more to see here, however, and more to root out than just a thwarted attempt by a government bureaucracy to police the political speech of the American people in violation of the First Amendment. It is the use of funded or politically affiliated non-profit groups to do the government's dirty work *for it*. Note that when pressed by a pending lawsuit over its actions, CISA offloaded its "election misinformation" activity to a non-profit organization called the Center for Internet Security (CIS). It was this group, CIS, that served as a singular conduit for election officials to report what they alone determined were false or misleading claims about elections to the large social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter, according to the report.

This parallels the [behavior](#) of the Justice Department under then Attorney General Eric Holder during the Barack Obama administration. The Government Accountability Institute did [research](#) into the DOJ's pattern of using "consent decrees" to force private companies with threats of anti-discrimination lawsuits to donate funds to one or more designated non-profit organizations on a list helpfully provided by the Justice Department. These groups were largely "social justice warriors" who would then use the money to exert political pressure. This practice was immediately banned by the Trump administration when it took office in 2017, but that ban was quietly reversed by Biden four years later.

CIS enjoyed government funds for its work, much of which is focused on anti-cyberattack activity, as it should be. But its actions in enforcing censorship of "election misinformation" were revealed in the now-famous dump of internal chatter known as "the Twitter files."

Not only that, but the woman who in October 2020 made the fateful decision for Twitter to censor the *New York Post*'s 2020 scoop about Hunter Biden's laptop, Vijaya Gadde, became a member of CISA's "Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Misinformation and Disinformation" subcommittee after the Biden administration took office. Gadde, you may recall, was unceremoniously fired by Elon Musk on his first day of owning Twitter.

Gadde was a member of this subcommittee, known as the "MDM Subcommittee," which also counted Dr. Kate Starbird of the University of Washington, and Suzanne Spaulding, a former legal adviser for the CIA. According to a report in The Intercept, this committee in 2022 recommended that CISA closely monitor "social media platforms of all sizes, mainstream media, cable news, hyper partisan media, talk radio and other online resources."

The MDM committee's report urged the agency to take steps to halt the "spread of false and misleading information" and recommended that CISA stay up to date with the ongoing research on "debunking vs. *pre-bunking*" information that the committee tars as either unknowingly false (misinformation), deliberately planted by hostile foreign actors (disinformation), or what it termed "malinformation," defined in its [report](#) as "information that may be based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate."

What the Judiciary Committee's work so far has highlighted is the creation of "feedback loops": that an agency of the government can create and use advisory boards to go well beyond its statutory mission, giving it cover for exercising power Congress never meant it to have.

How many more federal agencies are doing similar things?

Journal, asia, markets, government, war: **specific story about chinese tech theft**

Samsung Fights Back Against Beijing's Tech Theft, Sues Chinese Firm BOE Over Patent Infringement

[Authored by Lisa Bian and Sean Tseng via The Epoch Times](#) (emphasis ours),

Amid escalating tension between South Korea and China, Samsung has drawn attention by pulling out of the Shanghai Mobile World Congress for the first time in six years and initiating its maiden patent lawsuit against Chinese company BOE. The moves come in the wake of repeated allegations of technology theft by China against Samsung's technology.



A woman walks past a new flagship store of Samsung Electronics at the Gangnam district in Seoul on June 28, 2023. (Jung Yeon-je / AFP via Getty Images)

Samsung Display took a decisive step on June 26, instigating a patent infringement lawsuit against BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd. (BOE), China's premier display company. The lawsuit, filed in the Eastern District Court of Texas, asserts that BOE had unlawfully appropriated four of Samsung's patented organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display technologies that it uses in the iPhone 12.

This legal action marks Samsung's first patent lawsuit against BOE after it repeated warnings against unauthorized appropriation of Samsung's technology.

BOE is a public company with its headquarters in Beijing's Yizhuang Economic and Technological Development Zone, and its business empire spans displays, sensors, smart systems, and health services.

In the lawsuit, Samsung Display articulated its grievance, stating that BOE has infringed upon the company's patent rights by selling panels identical to those that Samsung Display has utilized for the iPhone 12 in the U.S. market.

This litigation extends the ongoing legal feud between Samsung Display and BOE that surfaced last year.

In May 2022, Samsung Display issued a notice of patent infringement to BOE, followed by a [complaint](#) with the International Trade Commission (ITC) against 17 U.S. component wholesalers in December of that same year.

Samsung [sought to ban](#) the use of counterfeit components and display panels allegedly based on its sophisticated OLED patents, including one on its "Diamond Pixel" technology.

The move was triggered by U.S. smartphone repair shops using both genuine Samsung Display panels and counterfeit Chinese products when replacing iPhone 12 OLED display panels. It requested the U.S. tribunal ban 17 U.S. smartphone parts wholesalers from importing such parts and panels that allegedly use its patented technology into the United States.

Confronted with this unfavorable situation, BOE retaliated in May this year by filing a counterclaim against Samsung Display's and Samsung Electronics' Chinese legal entity. The lawsuit, filed with a court in Chongqing, China, accused Samsung Display of plagiarizing its OLED display panel technology.

South Korean [public opinion](#) suggests that Samsung Display, having grown weary of the CCP's alleged acts of thievery, decided to retaliate with a countersuit.



A woman looks at accessories of the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip4 displayed on a wall during a media preview event for a new flagship store of Samsung Electronics at the Gangnam district in Seoul on June 28, 2023. (Jung Yeon-je/AFP via Getty Images)

Grappling With Significant Losses Due to China's Brazen Technology Theft

Beijing's alleged global technology theft operation wreaks havoc worldwide, with South Korea, an electronics industry powerhouse, bearing the brunt of its onslaught. Samsung Electronics, a global leader in semiconductors and OLED display panels, struggles to protect its technology.

A recent large-scale technology theft by Beijing, revealed to be of significant detriment to South Korea, exemplifies the severity of the situation.

In mid-June, South Korea's Suwon District Prosecutor's Office filed a [lawsuit against](#) a former Samsung Electronics executive surnamed Choi for allegedly stealing design data from a Samsung Electronics semiconductor factory and attempting to build a replica factory in China.

Choi, 65, a South Korean tech industry veteran, reportedly received approximately \$360 million from the Chengdu government to establish a semiconductor company in China, recruiting over 200 key personnel from Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix.

Choi was once lauded with titles for his innovation, hands-on approach, and round-the-clock dedication. However, this time, the government that honored him as a national tech hero is accusing him of industrial espionage on a grand scale.

Prosecutors [described](#) the defendant in a statement as an “undisputed top domestic expert in semiconductor manufacturing.”

“The data, which Samsung Electronics obtained through more than 30 years of research and development, is worth 300 billion to trillions of won (about \$200 million to billions). It is not only a company’s trade secret but also a national core technology,” prosecutors said.

Read more [here...](#)

[zerohedgedotcom/political/samsung-fights-back-against-beijings-tech-theft-sues-chinese-firm-boe-over-patent](#)

narrative: Chinese Military May Have Had COVID-19 Virus In Its Possession As Early As September 2019

BY TYLER DURDEN

WEDNESDAY, JUL 12, 2023 - 11:20 PM

[Authored by Joe Wang via The Epoch Times](#) (*emphasis ours*),

According to the World Health Organization, there have been 6,947,192 confirmed [COVID-19 deaths globally](#) as of June 28. Of those, 1,127,152 occurred in the United States, making the number of Americans killed by the virus more than 19 times the number of [American soldiers killed in the Vietnam War](#).

And yet, over three years since the beginning of the pandemic, we still don’t know where the virus originated. The fear is that the next time around, the

number of deaths could be much higher; because we didn't learn from this pandemic, we wouldn't be as prepared as we should for the next one.

This fear is shared by all Americans. That is probably why in March, the U.S. Congress unanimously passed the "[COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023](#)," requesting that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) "declassify all information relating to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origin of COVID-19." "The ODNI must submit to Congress an unclassified report with all such information with redactions only as necessary to protect sources and methods," the new law says.

On June 23, ODNI released a [10-page report](#) titled "Potential Links Between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Origin of the COVID-19 Pandemic." As someone who has been following this development closely, ODNI's report told me nothing beyond what I already knew, except for one little gem on page 5: that the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) had developed a technique that "left no traces of genetic modification of SARS-like coronaviruses."

"Some of the WIV's genetic engineering projects on coronaviruses involved techniques that could make it difficult to detect intentional changes," the report stated.

Why did the WIV want to develop such a technique? Scientists at the institute had been publishing their research on viruses in the best scientific journals, including on "genetic modification of SARS-like coronaviruses," so it didn't look like they wanted to hide what they had been doing. Maybe what they published was only part of their research, and they wanted to conceal the research they didn't publish? What would that be?

Before the ODNI report, U.S. investigative journalists revealed in early June that three WIV researchers, [Ben Hu, Ping Yu, and Yan Zhu](#), were allegedly the first COVID-19 patients, having fallen ill in the fall of 2019. They were reportedly conducting research on SARS-like viruses and engaging in "gain-of-function" experiments. Gain-of-function, which involves altering the properties of a pathogen in order to study its potential impact on human health, increases the infectiousness of viruses and/or makes them more lethal.

The WIV denied such allegations. "The recent news about so-called 'patient zero' in WIV are absolutely rumors and ridiculous," Ben Hu told the journal [Science](#) in June.

I was hoping that the ODNI report would shed more light on the origin of SARS-CoV-2. It didn't, but a patent application I found through a web search strongly suggests that the Liberation Army (PLA) had the genetic sequence of the virus in

its possession as early as September 2019. This would fit well with the allegation that the three WIV scientists were infected by the virus in the fall of 2019.

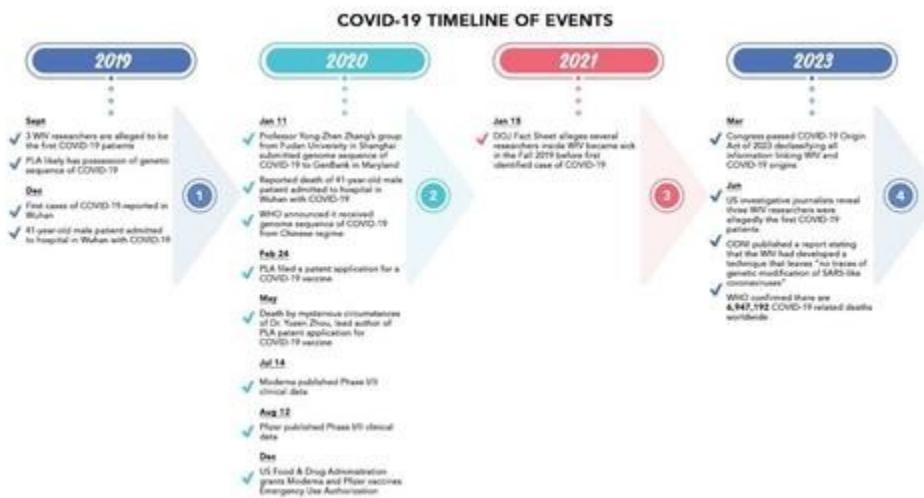
It's worth noting that the same allegation was made by the Department of Justice in a [fact sheet](#) published Jan. 15, 2021, which said the U.S. government had "reason to believe that several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak."

Officially, World Learned of Virus in January 2020

The first cases of the atypical pneumonia (later known as COVID-19) were reported in Wuhan in December 2019. The news was soon suppressed by the Chinese Communist Party, as China was preparing to celebrate the Lunar New Year—a time that no bad news is allowed. **Whistleblowers like [Dr. Wenliang Li](#) were punished. Officially, Chinese virologists did not have a chance to study the novel virus until early January 2020.**

On Jan. 11, 2020, Professor Yong-Zhen Zhang's group from Fudan University in Shanghai [submitted the genome sequence](#) of SARS-CoV-2 to GenBank (accession number MN908947.1) in Maryland. [Prof. Zhang obtained the virus](#) by collecting bronchoalveolar lavage fluid from a 41-year old male patient in Wuhan, who had been admitted to hospital on Dec. 26, 2019. Chinese state media reported his death [on Jan. 11, 2020](#).

Jan. 11, 2020, was the day that SARS-CoV-2 officially became known to the world. [WHO announced](#) that it had received the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus from the Chinese regime and would soon make it public.



(Dana Brillante)

PLA's Warp Speed Vaccine Research

On Feb. 24, 2020, Dr. Yusen Zhou and 10 other inventors from the PLA's Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology in Beijing [filed a patent application](#) (number 202010112679.9) titled "Novel coronavirus titled "COVID-19 vaccine, preparation methods and applications." The application described in detail the design of the vaccine, the method to produce the vaccine, and the immunogenicity of the vaccine.

I am a vaccine scientist who worked for one of the world's largest vaccine companies for more than 10 years, and I spearheaded SARS-CoV-1 vaccine development in 2003. I was stunned by the speed these PLA inventors were able to not only study the new virus and develop and test a vaccine so quickly, but also put together a patent application in merely 44 days (from Jan. 11 to Feb. 24)!

Vaccine development is an arduous process, usually taking about 10-15 years on average to accomplish. Before COVID-19, the fastest a vaccine that had ever been developed was [the mumps vaccine in 1967](#), which took four years.

Of course, the U.S. government's "[Operation Warp Speed](#)" made it possible for vaccine companies to accelerate their processes, which we now know compromised safety and effectiveness. [Moderna published](#) their Phase I/II clinical data on July 14, 2020, and Pfizer published theirs on Aug. 12, 2020. Then in December of that year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines [Emergency Use Authorization](#).

When I worked in the vaccine industry, I was the liaison between R&D (Research and Development) scientists (which I was also a member of) and our in-house lawyers in the IP (Intellectual Property) office. I was personally involved in the filing of dozens of patent applications. Normally, patent applications should be filed as soon as scientists discover something new, useful, and non-obvious—the three properties patent lawyers stress that scientists keep an eye out for and document.

A patent application can be filed before a vaccine is tested and granted for distribution. One could argue that the PLA's application was "provisional," meaning it would serve as a placeholder so that experimental results could be added later when available, hence it is possible that it only took 44 days to draft their patent application.

Yes, when things move extremely smoothly, a patent application could be put together in about one and a half months. However, the PLA's filing contains real experimental data that would take time and effort to perform and collect. This

makes it extremely unlikely that the scientists only received access to the virus information on or after Jan. 11, 2020.

Telling Timeline

If the PLA did have access to the virus, maybe they got the information from Prof. Zhang before he submitted the genetic sequence to GenBank, or maybe they got it elsewhere. Or it could be that since the scientists are with the PLA, how they obtained the virus constitutes a military secret.

Read more [here...](#)

“If you put a very developmentally fragile young person in any social group that is very dominant, they’re going to inevitably mimic the behaviors and the identity of that social group that they get dropped in,” Dr. Kardaras told The Epoch Times.”

Authored by Jackson Elliott via The Epoch Times (emphasis ours),

Across the United States, there’s a growing number of summer camps specifically for children who don’t identify with their biological sex.

Dangerous Policies?

It’s shocking and dangerous that sex-based boundaries that have kept children safe have been removed at some camps, Kimberly Fletcher, president and founder of Moms for America, told The Epoch Times.

“When you open Pandora’s box, you don’t get to decide what comes out,” Ms. Fletcher said.

Key UK Mortgage Rate Hits 6.66%, Highest Since 2008 Meltdown



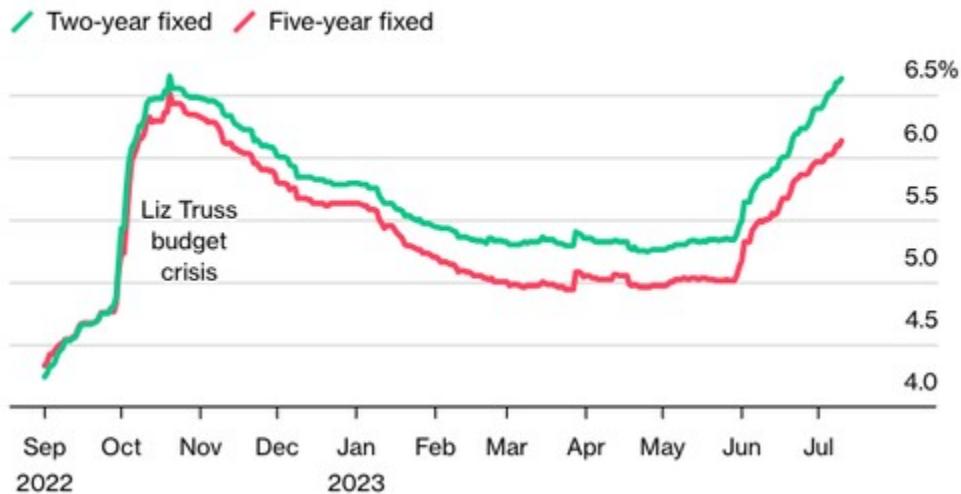
BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, JUL 11, 2023 - 08:45 AM

UK mortgage costs have hit levels not seen in 15 years after the average rate of the two-year fixed deal exceeded the chaotic Liz Truss mini-budget peak on Tuesday.

[Bloomberg](#) cited mortgage data from Moneyfacts that shows the average rate for a fixed two-year home loan increased to 6.66%, up from 6.63% on Monday. This is the highest rate since the 2008 financial meltdown and surpassed the 6.65% peak in the aftermath of the mini-budget during Liz Truss's brief premiership in October.

Key UK Mortgage Rate Surges to Highest Since 2008



"You Won't Hear This On NPR or NYT": US Forest Fire Burn Acreage At Decade Lows



BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, JUL 11, 2023 - 07:55 AM

Corporate media outlets frequently promote 'climate doom' narratives to their readership. Last week was a perfect example of the doomsayers working in what appeared to be a concerted effort by citing a climate model that not even the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) could validate to sound the alarm about the 'hottest days ever' on Earth.

Following the media hysteria about the world overheating and imminent climate disaster unless we give up combustion engine cars for electric ones, we were surprised that by the end of last week, The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by environmental attorney Steve Milloy titled "[Hottest Days Ever? Don't Believe It.](#)"

While The New York Times told its readership, "Human-caused climate change is making high temperatures more common and intensifying the dryness that fuels catastrophic wildfires," we wonder how devastating those wildfires have been in the US this season. If we listen to the doomsayers, it sounds like wildfires are uncontrollably spreading across the US.

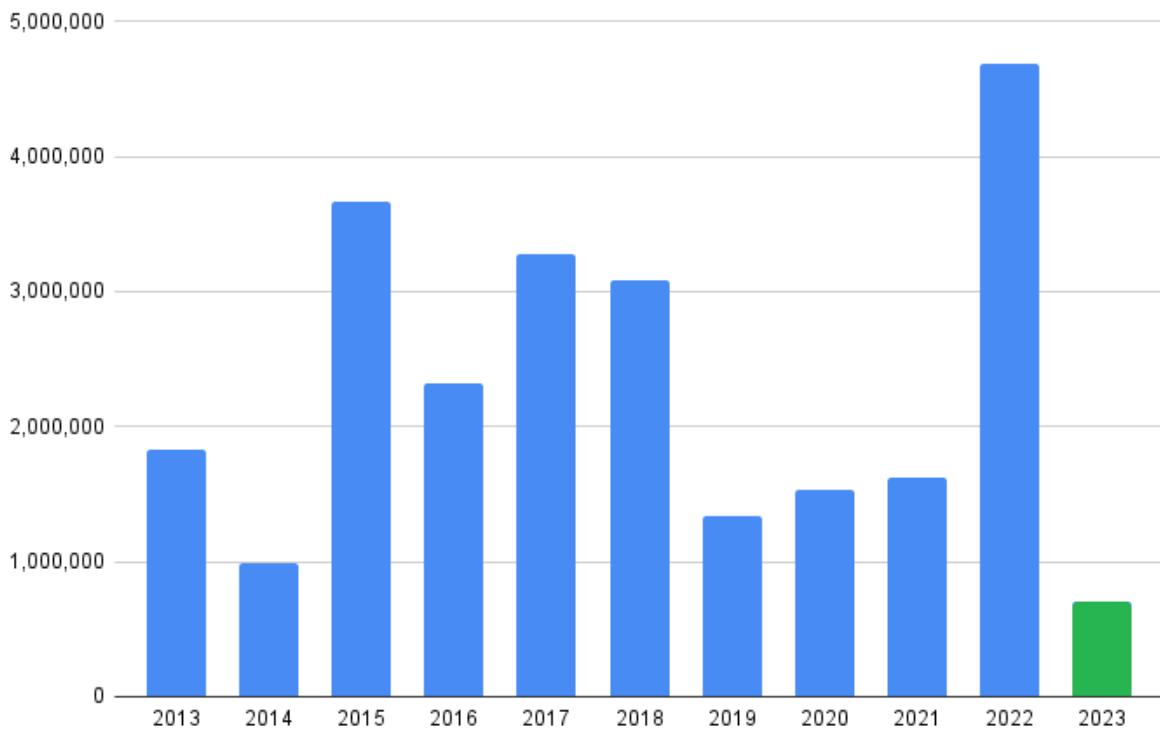
However, climate change contrarian Tony Heller tweeted Sunday new data from the [National Interagency Fire Center](#) that shows since January, 25,163 wildfires have burned 702,608 acres across. These numbers are below the 10-year average of 28,459 wildfires and 2,339,013 acres burned for this time of year ending on July 7.

Heller tweeted, "US forest fire burn acreage through July 7 is at historic lows and less than one-third of the ten-year average. You will not hear this reported by @NPR or the @nytimes."

And Heller might be right. Corporate media will dare not share these stats because it goes against the narrative of imminent climate doom so a 'green' agenda can be ushered in.

US Forest Fire Burn Acreage Through July 7

<https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn>



[TonyClimate/status/1678019412656558081/photo/1](#)

PM Orbán: We Reject EU's Plan To Create "Migrant Ghettos" In Hungary



BY TYLER DURDEN

TUESDAY, JUL 11, 2023 - 04:30 AM

[Authored by John Cody via Remix News.](#)

Hungary refuses to implement the EU's migrant relocation plans, will not accept mandatory quota, and has no desire to build "migrant ghettos" or migrant camps in the country, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stated on Friday during the Hungarian-Austrian-Serbian migration summit in Austria' capital city of Vienna.

"We will not accept the mandatory quota nor will we accept the obligation to build migrant ghettos and camps. We will find a legal and political way to ensure that Hungary does not implement the latest decision from Brussels," said Orbán during the summit.

"The situation is sad, but Hungary must defend itself not only against illegal migrants and people smugglers, but also against Brussels, and we will do so," he added.

Orbán's remarks come after the EU appears to be set to move forward with plans for the mandatory relocation of migrants across Europe, with member states who reject taking in migrants having to pay [€20,000 per migrant](#).

He also touted what he described as the Hungarian model, which he says the EU is now trying to throw to the wayside despite its effectiveness in reducing mass immigration.

"The Hungarian model, which is effective, is based on a very simple idea. No one is allowed to enter Hungary until their asylum application has been assessed. You can only enter if the application you have submitted has a positive answer. Until then, you cannot enter the territory of the country. This is the Hungarian model, this is what works, and I believe that it should be adopted by all the countries of the European Union," said the Hungarian prime minister.

"Unfortunately, this is not what is happening. Now, a regulation has been adopted in Brussels that imposes mandatory quotas and obliges member states to build refugee camps and migrant ghettos. This is bad not only for Hungary, ladies and gentlemen, but also for you Austrians," he added.

Orbán also outlined that Hungary is facing tremendous numbers of migrants at its border but the EU has little interest in stopping these migratory flows.

"We are not only protecting Hungary, we are protecting the whole of Europe, including Austria, from illegal immigrants. Last year, we were protecting the whole of Europe, along the whole of Europe's borders. A total of 330,000 illegal migrants were stopped. Of these, 270,000 were stopped at the Hungarian-Serbian border," said Orbán.

The Hungarian leader recently made similar remarks about "migrant ghettos" while speaking on Kossuth Radio, saying: "So, we have been told that Hungary must provide tens of thousands of places for migrants. This will become a ghetto, a refugee camp, a migrant ghetto. Now I am fighting against this with every means at my disposal. And we have no intention of implementing these decisions. We are saying this openly."

Russia Directs Rare Outrage At Turkey For 'Unauthorized' Release Of Azov Fighters



BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 10, 2023 - 07:40 PM

Russia is expressing a rare moment of outrage directed at Turkey, after Moscow says it was **blindsided by the Erdogan government's decision to handover of neo-Nazi Azov battalion prisoners** to Ukraine.

President Putin is [demanding answers](#): "Indeed, the return of the Azov leaders violates an existing agreement, and we will discuss this issue with Turkey and, in fact, we have already started talks on this issue," presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a news briefing. Russia says it wants "clarifications" from Ankara, and there has already been official phone calls on the issue. **Azov Regiment Commander Denys Prokopenko**, the man who for months led the final Azov holdout at Azovstal steel works plant, is now back in Ukraine a free man as a result of Zelensky's intervention.

Peskov continued in the terse words directed at Turkey: "It is extremely important that, **unlike a number of states from the so-called collective West, Turkey maintains a dialogue with us and supports it at the highest levels.**" Moscow's position is that the Azov prisoners were to remain in Turkey until the close of the war. Peskov complained that Russia **wasn't informed**.

"Nobody informed us about this. According to the terms of the agreement, these persons were supposed to stay on the territory of Türkiye until the end of the conflict," Peskov [asserted](#).

"We will be employing these channels for the dialogue, primarily to explain our stance, and will certainly be taking into account the current situation while concluding future agreements in various spheres."

The remarks as well as subsequent state media reporting have further strongly suggested the release of Azov fighters by Turkey undermines and erodes trust and strong relations between Ankara and Moscow. Presidents Putin and Erdogan have throughout the Ukraine war maintained relatively tight, positive relations given the backdrop of the conflict, and Turkey's place in NATO.

Turkey had previously played a leading role in prisoner swaps centered on Azov commanders and fighters that were holed up at Azovstal before Russian forces captured it last year. According to background in [Politico](#):

The five commanders — from the 12th Ukrainian National Guard, its separate Azov regiment and the 36th Separate Marine Brigade of the Ukrainian army — were ordered to surrender to Russian forces in May 2022 after holding out for more than two months defending the the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol.

The Azovstal commanders, along with 2,500 Ukrainian servicemen, were taken into Russian captivity. The Kremlin labeled all of them Nazis, with some Russian officials even [saying](#) the Ukrainian soldiers deserved execution by hanging.

Zelensky had personally traveled to Istanbul where he met with Erdogan, and secured their release. The Ukrainian leader has been celebrating this as a triumph... "We are returning home from Turkey and bringing our heroes home," announced Zelensky over the weekend. On Saturday he posted the following:

"Ukrainian soldiers Denys Prokopenko, Svyatoslav Palamar, Serhiy Volynsky, Oleh Khomenko, Denys Shleha. They will finally be with their relatives," Zelensky had announced on Telegram. "We are returning home from Türkiye and bringing our heroes home," he said, adding: "They will finally be with their relatives."

Meanwhile, this could do further harm to the Turkey-brokered grain deal. Russia has been complaining to Turkey about the "inability of Western states" to carry out the grain deal, after it has already been hanging by a thread. Turkey is further seeking to give Russia security assurances, including the possibility of naval escorts, after Russia alleged Ukrainian aggression in the region of the Black Sea grain corridor.

Turkey Suddenly Agrees To Advance Sweden's NATO Bid



BY TYLER DURDEN

MONDAY, JUL 10, 2023 - 04:20 PM

Update (1531ET): Stoltenberg confirms the massive news--**there will be a 32nd member state added to NATO**, as we now await Russia's sure to be deeply unhappy and frustrated response.

Prior Moscow declarations related to Sweden's potential move into NATO had involved measures to strengthen Russian defensive positions along the Scandinavian border region, specifically the Finnish border as well as in the region of the far-northern, remote arctic border area with Sweden.

What's clear is that the 'unintended consequences' resulting from the Ukraine conflict have continued to spiral, and **things are escalating by the day and week.**

And now, to make matters worse, *some* (though not all) NATO member states are pushing for Ukraine's entry into the military alliance. The US has resisted, however, with Biden saying Monday that this would have to wait until after the war, given NATO Article 5 would trigger a massive hot conflict with Russia. Will Biden's vow to not consider admitting Ukraine into the alliance soften the blow for Moscow (regarding the major Sweden development)? This was perhaps key to some back-channel 'assurances', possibly.

* * *

Update (1520ET): In a rather surprising move - sure to upset Putin - Turkey agreed Monday to ask its parliament to **advance Sweden's bid for membership in the NATO alliance.**

Bloomberg reports, according to a Turkish official, that the decision was made after **receiving assurances on key demands, including Stockholm's approach to supporters of Kurdish separatists** operating in its territory.

The Turkish official said there was also progress toward meeting their demands to lift defense-related sanctions and that **EU officials agreed to speed up their membership negotiations**, including on joining the customs union and allowing visa-free travel for its citizens.

Erdogan's change of stance came hours ahead of a NATO leaders summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, where alliance members had originally hoped to be able to welcome Sweden as a new member.

[As The Wall Street Journal reports](#), the last-minute solution to the deadlock would allow NATO to enter the summit having ironed out major differences, projecting unity against Russian aggression.

It would also **pave the way for an expansion across more than 1,000 miles of territory straddling the Baltic Sea**, shifting the balance of power in northern Europe and creating a potential chokepoint for Russian warships and aircraft in the region.

As The Cradle detailed earlier, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told US President Joe Biden during a [phone call](#) on Sunday that his country has **not seen enough progress from Sweden to support its bid to join NATO**, coming just two days ahead of a summit of NATO leaders in Lithuania.

"Erdogan stated that Sweden has taken some steps in the right direction by making changes in the anti-terrorism legislation," the Turkish directorate of communications said in a statement following the call between the two presidents.

However, "terrorist" supporters continue to hold protests in the country, Erdogan reportedly told Biden, referring to supporters of Kurdish groups such as the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its affiliates, outlawed in Turkey.

"This nullifies the steps taken," the Turkish statement went on to say. These "steps" refer to **requests by Ankara for Sweden to extradite members of Kurdish groups**.

According to a statement released by the White House on Sunday, the two "discussed the range of issues that NATO leaders will consider at the summit, expressed their shared commitment to continue supporting Ukraine, and reviewed efforts to strengthen our bilateral ties. President Biden also **conveyed his desire to welcome Sweden into NATO as soon as possible.**"

During a televised speech the following day, Erdogan suggested that the approval of EU membership for Turkey would pave the way for Sweden's NATO membership.

"First, open the way for Turkey's membership in the European Union, then we open it for Sweden, just as we opened the way for Finland," he said.

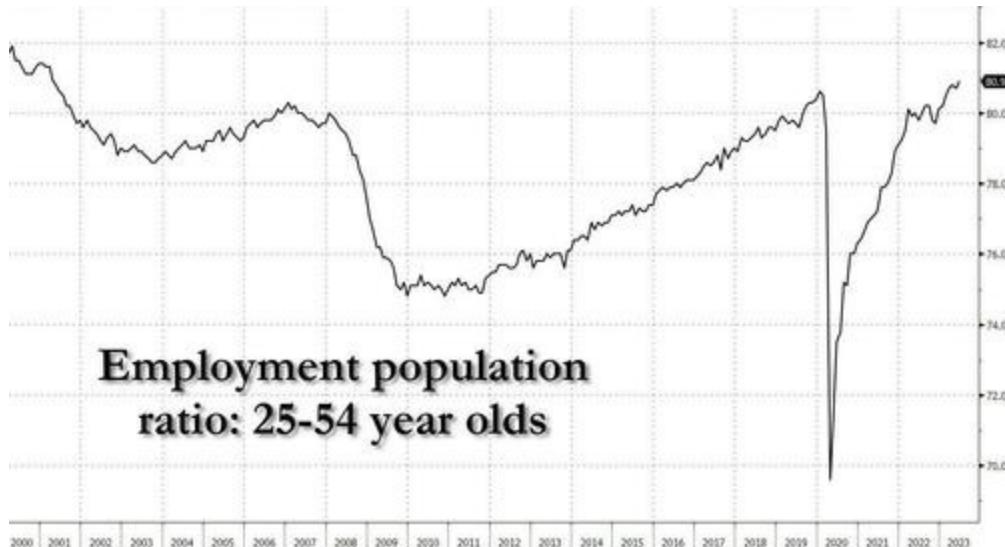
On July 11 a NATO summit is scheduled to be held in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, during which Washington is reportedly planning to push for a deal to see Sweden's swift ascension into the alliance.

While Turkey had previously been blocking Finnish ascension to NATO as well, over accusations that Finland was harboring Kurdish militant sympathizers, its application was approved, and in April, Finland officially joined the alliance.

However, Sweden's [Quran burnings](#) have hindered the process, particularly the latest incident last month – which took place with Swedish police approval and sparked worldwide [condemnation](#) and protests in several countries. Ankara has recently doubled down on its position regarding the Quran burning.

At the end of last month, Erdogan said – implying that Turkey will hold off on approving Sweden's NATO bid – that Ankara will "put forward our reaction in the strongest possible way until there is a concerted effort to combat the enemies of Islam as well as terrorist organizations."

During the phone call, Biden and Erdogan reportedly **discussed the sale of US F-16 jets to Turkey**, which many have inferred would ease Sweden's bid for NATO ascension. However, the Turkish president reportedly told Biden "That it is not correct to associate" the Turkish F-16 request with Sweden's NATO membership.



Source: [Federal Reserve](#)

Indonesia Seizes Iran-Flagged Supertanker Over Sanctions-Busting Oil Transfer

The revived 'tanker wars' have continued this summer, as on Tuesday Indonesia **seized an Iranian-flagged tanker over allegations it was engaged in an illegal crude oil transfer**, according a statement by the Indonesian coast guard.

Reuters [reported](#) based on the source that the vessel is the MT Arman 114, which was carrying over 270,000 barrels of light crude. Authorities say it was planning to transfer its crude to another vessel without permit, which is a common tactic when tankers want to conceal offloading.

Tehran has long been **accused of sanctions-busting activities particularly in southeast Asia**, with China in particular as a major buyer, as its crude continues to make its way to international markets. Reportedly Indonesian coast guard directly caught the MT Arman 114 in the act of transferring its cargo onto a Cameroon-flagged vessel. The Iranian-flagged vessel was also suspected of turning off its transponder, another common tactic of sanctions-evasion. According to further details, the Iranian tanker briefly attempted to evade the Indonesian [coast guard](#):

When approached, the MT Arman 114 tried to escape before being chased into Malaysia's EEZ.

Indonesian authorities carried out the seizure with the help of Malaysian authorities, who 'deployed special maritime troops using helicopters.'

But Indonesia acting to seize an Iranian tanker remains a rare act - as it doesn't tend to act as a big US sanctions enforcer.

This **could serve to endanger Indonesian ships in the Persian Gulf region**, as Iran has a tendency to hit back at individual countries' ships in tit-for-tat fashion when they are found in waters off the Iranian coast.

In recent months, Iran has seized three foreign tankers in the Gulf region, including one which had been bound for Houston, as it was transporting crude for Chevron.

Apple suddenly tells customers that their photos will be deleted in only 3 weeks from My Photo Stream, an application that allows users to store up to 1000 photos for 1 month.

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT210705>

Chinese mindset: "Wu wei is about allowing things to happen naturally and letting go of the need to control. It emphasizes taking action when necessary, but not pushing yourself with excessive effort and tension."

[A 2,000-year-old Chinese mindset can make you more successful—and 'takes almost zero effort,' says psychologist \(msn.com\)](#)

key cali drought info. makes the timing seem even more suspicious..

Western US drought, 2020-2023

The Western United States has faced its worst drought in centuries over the past few years, fueling devastating wildfires and triggering water shortages.

In California, the summer of 2021 saw the [most extreme drought](#) on record for the state. A hydroelectric power plant at Lake Oroville, the state's second-largest reservoir, [was forced to shut](#) down due to low water levels for the first time since it opened in 1967.

Meanwhile, two of the country's largest reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, dropped so low, government officials imposed unprecedented water cuts for the states of Nevada and Arizona, as well as in Mexico.

A study from the journal Nature Climate Change found the period from 2000 to 2021 was the driest the West has ever been in 1,200

years, noting human-caused climate change made the [megadrought 72% worse](#).

editiondotcnndotcom/2023/06/15/world/extreme-weather-events-climate-change/index.html?cid=external-feeds_iluminar_msn

"Fewer than 10% of homes in Europe have air conditioning, compared to around 90% of homes in the United States."

[Italy swelters under deadly 'Cerberus' heat wave which could break European temperature records \(msn.com\)](#)